



Talk About What Could Happen Next

Young children generally find it easy to talk about the here and now. However, having conversations about the future helps children learn to use more abstract and sophisticated language. One way to talk about the future is to make a prediction. Here are some fun tips for talking about what could happen next:

Play Time

While playing with firetrucks, ask a question that encourages the child to make a prediction. For example, you could ask, “What will the firefighters do when they get to the house?” Wait for the child to respond, then make a prediction of your own.



Daily Activities

If you notice a bug flying around the house, ask the child to predict how the bug will get back outside. You could say, “What do you think the bug will do to get back outside?” You can help the child with their prediction by asking, “What might happen if we open the window?”

On the Go

If you notice an airplane flying overhead, ask the child to predict where they think the plane is going. Build on the child’s response by talking about where they would like to go on an airplane.



Book Reading

While sharing a new book, pause after the characters encounter a problem to give the child an opportunity to make a prediction. Ask a question like, “What do you think will happen next?” Compare the child’s prediction to what actually happens in the story.

Notes