



## *That's a Great Question! \**

Kids have lots of different *reasons* for asking questions. Sometimes they want attention or they want to argue with the family rules. Sometimes they are *seeking* new information and understanding, and those are excellent questions to encourage. The trick is to notice thoughtful questions when they are asked, and *praise* children for them with a response like, “That’s a great question!” If you can answer those questions right away, do that. But sometimes you don’t know the answer or the timing is not appropriate. Be sure to remember those questions and answer them later.

### **Here is a way to do this:**

- 1) One of the best ways to get your child to ask good questions is to *ask thoughtful questions yourself*. Here are some examples:
  - Ask “I wonder” questions: *How* does it work? What came before this? *Why*?
  - Ask “Do I *believe* it?” questions: Where did this information come from? Is it based on facts?
  - Ask values questions: Is this honest? Is this *helpful*? Does this hurt anyone? Is it fair?
  - Ask questions that *encourage* creativity: What can we do with this information? How could we solve that problem?
2. When your children ask thoughtful questions like these above, praise them with the comment like, “*That is an interesting thing to wonder about!*”
3. This activity can be done any time, anywhere. The *more often* you do it, the more comfortable both you and the children will become, and the better questions you will each ask.
4. If you like, you can write down good questions and make a Questions List in the **Tools & Resources** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™. Then answer them and check them off, when you get the information from the library or elsewhere.



“When I was a kid, our family had lively *discussions* around the dinner table. My dad would ask a provocative question like, “Why do you think so-and-so did that?” It didn’t matter if we disagreed in our answers. Our brains were getting *exercise!*”

— *Grandma Anna*

\**That's a Great Question!* supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to reading comprehension of factual material, research skills, and information literacy.

**Next month, go to [www.familylearningjournal.com](http://www.familylearningjournal.com) for a new Family Activity!**

