



## Why all the 'Why's

Asking "Why?" is an important, but frustrating, phase of development.

### Why now?

- Your child is starting to understand cause and effect, and realizes that there are reasons for why almost everything happens. They want to know why!
- Asking "Why?" is an important skill that helps your child learn about how things work and why things happen. Answers to your child's questions give them a greater understanding of how the world works.
- Asking "Why?" keeps you (the caregiver) paying attention. It brings you into the conversation and gets you thinking.
- Asking "Why?" teaches the "give-and-take" of conversation. "Why?" questions allow your child can keep the talking going.

### How to answer the "whys?"

1. *Don't always rush in with an answer.*
  - Allow your child to think about the question themselves
  - Ask the question back, "Why do you think?"
  - Encourage your child to share their own ideas.
2. *Respond simply and with short answers.*
  - You'll lose your child's attention if your answer is too long
3. *Don't fall back answers like "that's just the way it is"*
  - Ask your child to think about possibilities.
  - Help them to think about things differently
4. *When you're not sure of the answer, try asking for your child's help.*
  - Teach your child how to have fun finding answers.
    - Use the internet together to search for answers.
    - Talk about people you know who might know the answer.
    - Write down questions so you don't forget and let your child see you write things down so they know you take their questions seriously.
    - Ask your child to remember their question and remind you to get the answer as soon as possible.