Inspire workshop, autumn – PEER reading model

When reading with your child, ask questions to check understanding and discuss the story. Too many questions will spoil the flow – for younger children, one every few sentences can be appropriate; for older children, one every page or so.

The framework we recommend is based on the research of the Education Endowment Foundation and is designed to promote discussion.

It uses PEER to help remember – prompt, evaluate, expand, repeat. The prompt could be a question about anything in the text (or pictures) – below are lots of examples of types of questions you could ask about prompts.

Prompt – there are several different types of prompt (the acronym CROWD is used for each type of prompt)

- Completion – complete a sentence to check understanding:
    o The dragon is…
    o The Chabi is named after…
    o Harry Potter is afraid of…
    o The weather was…
- Recall – recall facts
    o What colour was the dragon?
    o What was the dragon doing?
    o How many people were there?
    o Can you describe the character?
- Open-ended – questions with many possible answers
    o Tell me about the character
    o What might happen next? What else could happen?
    o Tell me about this story
- Wh – who, what, where, when, why (these may also be recall)
    o Who is the character angry at?
    o Where does the dragon live?
    o Why isn't the boy scared of the dragon?
    o When does this story take place?
- Distancing – connects to child's life experiences
    o Is Harry Potter's school like yours? How is it the same? How is it different?
    o Do you remember when we went to the zoo? Which of these animals did you see? Did you like the same ones as the character?

Here's an example from Harry Potter:

Prompt: Why are the chocolate frogs jumping around? (child: because they're magic)

Evaluate: That's right. (the child does not need to respond to this if it's right, but if it's wrong they could have another go or you could help them)

Expand: Is that normal? (child: no!) Why not? (child: because if sweets all jumped around then you'd never get to eat them! It's only normal for wizards)

Repeat: Ok, so wizard sweets might jump around but when we eat our sweets they won't jump around? (child: Yes!)