

DO THIS AT HOME

Bright Beginnings, Happy Endings

Use some of these questions at home to help your child learn to express herself and build her vocabulary.

What Your Child Will Learn

Asking your child open-ended questions helps her learn to express herself and builds her vocabulary. Open-ended questions prompt more than a “one-word” answer. For example: *What is your favorite color?* is not open-ended because it produces a one-word answer. Instead phrasing like this, *Tell me about some things that are the same color as your favorite color*, encourages more conversation with your child.

Materials Needed

“Bright Beginning” and “Happy Ending” Questions (see below)

What to Do

- ▶ Begin each day by asking your child one or more of the “Bright Beginning” questions below.
- ▶ End each day by asking your child one or more of the “Happy Ending” questions below.
- ▶ Listen attentively as your child reflects. Ask questions to help your child elaborate on the various happenings at home and school.

“Bright Beginning” Questions

- ▶ Who do you plan to play with today?
- ▶ What do you plan to play with today?
- ▶ What great things are you hoping will happen today?
- ▶ Is there anything that could happen today that would make you really, really happy?
- ▶ Is there anything that could happen today that would make you really, really sad?
- ▶ What types of things do you do at school all by yourself?
- ▶ What do you like most about school?
- ▶ What do you like least about school?
- ▶ If you get upset or angry during the day at school, what do you do to feel better?
- ▶ Tell me (show me) what you do when you want a friend to play with you.
- ▶ What do you do when you have a problem in school and need help?
- ▶ Describe for me what you plan to do at school.
- ▶ What are you looking forward to doing in school?
- ▶ What are the names of your best friends at school?
- ▶ What are your favorite storybooks to read at school? Why are those your favorites?

Continued on next page

*You can download this activity and the other at-home activities in this book at www.centerforresilientchildren.org/SSES.

DO THIS AT HOME
Bright Beginnings, Happy Endings

Continued from previous page

“Happy Ending” Questions

- ▶ Who was happy at school today?
Who was sad?
- ▶ What did you dream about during nap today?
- ▶ Tell me a funny story about something that happened at school today.
- ▶ I had a _____ day.
What kind of day did you have?
Tell me about it.
- ▶ Describe all the fun things you did in school today.
- ▶ What was the best part of your day today?
- ▶ I could not wait to see you today! What happened today that you want to tell me about?
- ▶ What was the most fantastic thing that happened at school today?
- ▶ Tell me about the interesting things you did at school today.
- ▶ Show me (tell me about) what you did today.
- ▶ Show me (tell me about) where you played today.
- ▶ Show me (tell me about) what you learned today.
- ▶ Talk about something that surprised you.
- ▶ Talk about something that upset you or made you angry.
- ▶ What was the friendliest thing you did for someone today?
- ▶ What was the friendliest thing someone did for you today?
- ▶ What was the kindest thing you did for someone today?
- ▶ What was the kindest thing someone did for you today?
- ▶ What did you like most about being at school today?



*You can download this activity and the other at-home activities in this book at www.centerforresilientchildren.org/SSES.