



## Resource 4

# Ask the Right Questions

**Parents want to know about how their child spent his or her day at school. Many times parents don't ask specific enough questions to get specific answers from children about their school day.**

Often when you ask your child, "What did you do at school today?" the answer is, "Nothing." or "We played." This is especially true of elementary children. Or you ask, "How was school today?" and all you get is "Fine." Children want to share what happened during the day but the question "What did you do at school today?" may just be too wide open for them to answer, as they probably did a lot at school today!

**Parents must know the language used in the classroom to refer to different activities, such as reading circles, science centers, cooperative groups, etc.**

Ask the teacher to provide a daily schedule or list of questions which use this language, so that you will know how to better ask a child about his or her day.

Some examples might be:

**"What story did you read in reading circle today?"**

**"What did you learn in science centers this week?"**

**"What was your role in the cooperative group today?" and "Who was the reporter?"**

It is also helpful if the teacher helps remind young children or brainstorm together what they did that day just before they leave. It can be a very long day for some children and, by the time they see their parents, they may have honestly forgotten what happened earlier in the day.

A parent might ask:

**"What was the first thing you did at school this morning?"**

**"What happened right after you came back from lunch?"**

**If you ask a more specific question - you might just get a more specific answer!**