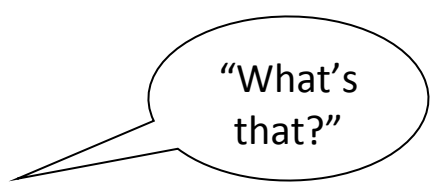

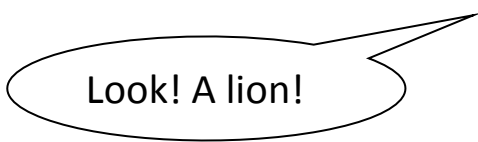
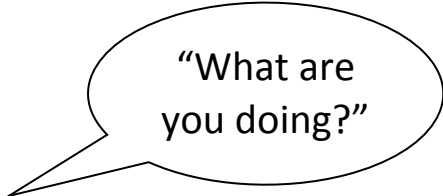

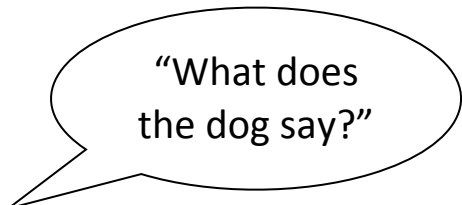

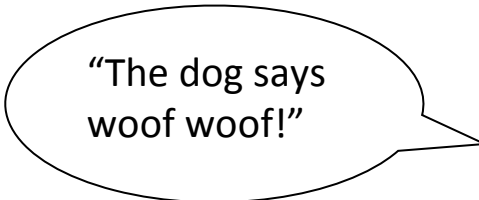


Questions or Comments?

Asking questions is a strategy we use with children all the time when we want to encourage them to talk more. Our favourites seem to be questions that test children because we know the answer already! These questions can work with chatty children as they love to show us all the things they know. However, when we use the same strategy with a less talkative child we are often met with silence.

A more successful way to engage a quiet child is simply to comment on what they can see or what they are doing. This removes the pressure for them to speak and gives them a model they can copy if they want to.

Try turning questions into comments:

To ask or not to ask...?

Don't ask a question if...	It's fine to ask a question if...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You already know the answer. This isn't real communication – you wouldn't do it with an adult! A comment would do instead. If you want to start a conversation try "I wonder...." or "I bet...." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need to know the answer! You are talking to a confident child with a good vocabulary.