Open-ended questions, the ones that require more than one-word answers such as yes or no, can stimulate a child's thinking and help to develop their language skills. Open-ended questions encourage a child to focus and make meaning of their experiences and enable them to see various possibilities. See below for examples that will connect rich, thoughtful questions to curiosity, vocabulary, and all domains of development.

Nurturing a Child's Curiosity
New research shows that the more curious children are, the better they do academically in reading and math once they enter school. Touching something interesting, asking a question, leaning in to look closely, and repeating an action again and again to see what happens are ways we use our curiosity to discover how the world works. Check out this website to learn how questions and other strategies can promote curiosity in infants and toddlers. **https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3505-nurturing-your-young-child-s-curiosity**

Using Open Ended Questions with Children
This website summarizes the benefits of asking open-ended questions, then provides an awesome tutorial on how to use open-ended questions in a variety of applications (e.g., to challenge thinking, to explore books). Along with tips from experts, you'll find lots of examples at **https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/teaching-children/using-open-ended-questions-with-children**

Benefits of Asking Young Children Open Ended Questions
Through the use of language and open-ended questioning, adults are able to expand young children's curiosity and ability to reason, creativity, thinking ability and independence. Learn more at **https://www.under5s.co.nz/shop/Hot+Topics+Articles/Child+Development/Benefits+of+asking+young+kids+open-ended+questions.html**

Gain Language Skills and Learn About STEM Through Storybook Conversations
Reading a book with a child can be a great way to use open-ended questions to support many kinds of learning. Check out a great guide for using dialogic reading practices to do just that with Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. You'll even find a link to a video of a parent reading that book to her toddler and more at
https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/sites/stemie.fpg.unc.edu/files/Storybook-Very%20Hungry%20Caterpillar-Carle.pdf
NOTE: This is one of the **many** great new resources on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning for young children with and without disabilities on the STEMIE website**: https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/**

Using Questions to Guide Hands-On Exploration
This video shows educators guiding children in hands-on explorations. Though their environments differ, the educators use the same strategies to encourage children to think, predict, describe, and explain using the language of science. Visit this site to discover the video and related resources. **http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/educators/module/20/15/75/#:~:text=Because%20they%20usually%20cannot%20be%20answered%20with%20just,observations%20and%20ideas%2C%20and%20to%20extend%20their%20investigations**

GUMDROP With a Message About Questions
I call short, engaging videos that pack a content punch "gumdrops." This gumdrop highlights the things that young children are expecting of us including the request that we ask more engaging and thought-provoking questions than "what color is a banana?" **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqljnK4HVaw**