Questions to help develop reading comprehension skills

- Aim to read and discuss reading with your child at least once a week.

- These questions are used in guided and reciprocal reading sessions to give children an opportunity to discuss their understanding and thoughts.

- Turn to the appropriate section (fiction or non-fiction) depending on the text that your child is reading.

- Choose two or three questions to discuss with your child during or after a shared reading session. Choose each question from a different section in order to provide a range of question types.

Fiction

AF2	Where does the story take place?	
	What did the character look like?	
	Who are the key characters in the book?	
	What kinds of people are in the story?	
	When did the story take place?	
	Where did the character live?	
	What happened in the story?	
	Explain something that happened at a specific point in the story?	

AF3	If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask?	
	Which is your favourite part? Why?	
	Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?	
	What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending in the book?	
	Who was the storyteller? How do you know?	
	Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?	
	Is this a place you could visit? Why/why not?	
	How is the main character feeling at the start/middle/end of the story?Why do they feel that way? Does this surprise you?	

AF4	Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not?	
	What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?	
	How has the text been organised?	
	Why do you think authors use short sentences?	
	How did you think it would end/should have ended?	
	Has the author used an unusual layout in the text? If so, describe it and say why you think they did this?	
	Has the author used a variety of sentence structures?	
	Has the author put certain words in bold or *italic?* Why have they done this?	

AF5	Why did the author choose this title?	
	Can you find some examples of effective description? What makes them effective?	
	Can you find examples of powerful adjectives? What do they tell you about a character or setting?	
	Can you find examples of powerful verbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting?	
	Do you want to read the rest of the text? How does the writer encourage you to read the rest of the text?	
	Which part of the story best describes the setting?	
	Can you find examples of powerful adverbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting?	
	Find an example of a word you don't know the meaning of. Using the text around it, what do you think it means?	

AF6	Can you think of another story that has a similar theme eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish?	
	What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?	
	What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can.	
	What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can.	
	Why did the author choose this setting?	
	How could the story be improved or changed for the better?	
	What genre is this story? How do you know?	
	When the author writes in short sentences, what does this tell you?	

AF7	Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues eg social, cultural, moral issues?	
	How would you have felt in the same situation?	
	How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as the main character?	
	Have you read any other stories that have similar characters to this one? If so, which story was it and what happened?	
	Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened?	
	What would you have done differently to the character in a particular situation from the book?	
	What did the story make you think of?	
	Do you think this book is trying to give the reader a message? If so, what is it?	

Non fiction

AF2		
	What is the text about?	
	Who is the author of the text?	
	Can you find examples of different features of this text type?	
	Where would you look to find out what a technical word means?	
	What is the title of the text?	
	What kind of things would you expect to see in this book?	
	Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why you chose that particular part.	
	What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?	

AF3		
	Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?	
	When would you use the index page in the book?	
	When might someone use this book? Why?	
	Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?	
	When would you use the contents page in the book?	
	What sort of person do you think would use this book?	
	Can you suggest ideas for other sections or chapters to go into the book?	

AF4		
	What kind of a text is this? How do you know?	
	What is the purpose of the pictures?	
	What are the subheadings for?	
	Why have some of the words been written in *italics*?	
	Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something?	
	How does the layout help the reader?	
	Why have some of the words been written in bold?	
	Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it?	

AF5		
	Why does this book contain technical vocabulary?	
	Why do we need a glossary in a text?	
	Find an example of a technical word. Read the sentence it's in. What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence?	
	Are there any examples of persuasive language?	

AF6		
	Why has the writer written this text?	
	Why did the writer choose to present the information in the way they did?	
	What makes this text successful?	
	Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them?	
	Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully.	
	How could the information be presented better?	
	Are there any features that it hasn't got? Why do you think it doesn't have them?	