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?

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

Continued on next 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?

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