

Serious Questions

Why did our
turtle die?

Give simple but thoughtful answers to your child's *how* and *why* questions.

From your honest answers to serious questions, your child will begin to build his own viewpoint and values.



Why this is important

Answering your child's serious questions with brief, honest replies helps your child build knowledge and learn your values. Asking questions is a way for your child to get information on facts and attitudes. Children build their value system on the answers others give them, how those answers are given, and their own experiences.

What you do

- Give your child serious answers to questions as they naturally come up during your day together.
- Keep your answers brief and sincere. A detailed, scientific explanation is often not needed.
- Remember that your child will ask for more information if interested. Even questions about topics such as sex, death, or divorce can be answered very simply.
- Assume that when your child asks a question such as *Why did our turtle die?* he is also asking the implied question, *What do you feel about pets and death?*
- Consider this activity as a way to pass on your important values and attitudes.
- Share answers with your child as often as necessary to make him feel at ease with the subject.

Another idea

You may notice your child's anxiety about a topic before he has asked a question. Feel free to approach him and welcome any questions he has. Remind him that you are always available to talk with him openly about serious subjects.

Let's read together!

Two Homes
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