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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**8.1 Learning the meaning of ‘when’**

**Why is this important?  
Wh- questions are an integral part of everyday conversations and routines.  
Children need to understand these structures to be able to respond  
appropriately. ‘When’ is probably the hardest of the question words because  
time generally can be a challenging concept for children to grasp.**

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What to do  
• Share a simple activity book, experience book or child’s reading book.  
• Using the story/pictures, ask questions relating to ‘when’ particular things happen:  
★ ‘When do we have a bath?’  
★ ‘When do we put up an umbrella?’  
★ ‘When do we need a plaster?’  
★ ‘When do we put the lights on?’  
★ ‘When does a cat miaow?’  
• Encourage appropriate responses. Use sentence completion if the child finds the activity difficult, e.g.  
★ Adult: ‘When do we put the lights on?’  
★ Child: No response.  
★ Adult: ‘We put the lights on when it’s …’ (pause).  
★ Child: ‘Night time.’**