

Questions that can help to extend children's thinking.

Ask children who are getting started with a piece of work:

How are you going to start this?
 What information do you have? What do you need to find out or do?
 What operation/s are you going to use?
 What method are you going to use?
 Why?
 What equipment will you need?
 What questions will you need to ask?
 How are you going to record what you are doing?
 What do you think the answer or result will be?
 Can you estimate or predict?

Check children's progress while they are working out problems, by asking:

Can you explain what you have done so far?
 What else is there to do?
 Why did you decide to use this method or do it this way?
 Can you think of another method that might have worked?
 Could there be a quicker way of doing this?
 What do you mean by...?
 What did you notice when...?
 Why did you decide to organise your results like that?
 Are you beginning to see a pattern or a rule?
 Do you think that this would work with other numbers?
 Have you thought of all the possibilities?
 How can you be sure?

Ask children who are stuck:

Can you describe the problem in your own words?
 Can you talk me through what you have done so far?
 What did you do last time? What is different this time?
 Is there something that you already know that might help?
 Could you try it with simpler numbers... fewer numbers... using a number line...?
 What about putting things in order?
 Would a table help, or a picture/diagram/graph?
 Why not make a guess and check if it works?

Ask children who have answered questions:

How did you get your answer?
 Can you describe your method/pattern/rule?
 Can you explain why it works?
 What could you try next?
 Would it work with different numbers?
 What if you had started with... rather than...?
 What if you could only use...?
 Is it a reasonable answer/result? What makes you say so?
 How did you check it?
 If you were doing it again, what would you do differently?
 Having done this, when could you use this method/information/idea again?
 Did you use any new words today?
 What do they mean?
 What are the key points or ideas that you need to remember for the next time?

Key Vocabulary

Number and place value

Zero, one, two, three to twenty, and beyond
 Count (on/up/to/from)
 Before, after
 More, less, many, few, fewer, least, fewest, smallest, greater
 Equal to, the same as
 Odd, even
 Units, ones, tens
 Ten more/less
 Digit
 Numeral
 Compare order
 Value
 Between, Above, below

Numbers to one hundred
 Hundreds
 Partition, recombine
 Hundred more/less

Fractions

Whole
 Equal parts, four equal parts
 One half, two halves
 A quarter, two quarters

Three quarters, one third, a third equivalent

Addition and subtraction

Number bonds, number line
 Add, more, plus, make, sum, total, altogether
 Inverse
 Double, Half
 Equals, same as, balance
 Difference between
 How many more?
 Subtract, take away, minus
 How much less is..?

Multiplication and division

Odd, even
 Count in twos, threes, fives
 Count in tens
 How many times?
 Lots of, groups of, times, multiply, multiply by, Repeated addition
 Array, row, column
 Double, halve
 Share, share equally, Groups of.
 Equal groups of
 Divide, divided by, left, left over

Statistics (Y2)

Count, tally, sort
 Graph, block graph, pictogram,
 Represent
 Group, set, list, table
 Label, title
 Most popular, most common, least popular, least common

Position and direction

Position
 Over, under, underneath, above, below, top, bottom, side
 on, in, outside, inside
 around, in front, behind
 Front, back
 Before, after
 Beside, next to, Opposite
 Apart
 Between, middle, edge, centre
 Corner
 Direction
 Journey
 Left, right, up, down, forwards, backwards, sideways
 Across
 Close, far, near
 Along, through
 To, from, towards, away from
 Movement
 Slide, turn, whole turn, half turn

Rotation
 Clockwise, anticlockwise
 Straight line
 Ninety degree turn, right angle
 Symmetrical, line of symmetry
 Fold
 Match
 Mirror line, reflection
 Pattern, repeating pattern

Measure

Full, half full, empty
 Holds
 Container
 Weigh, weighs, Mass, balances
 Heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter, lightest
 Before, after
 Next, last
 Now, soon, early, late
 Quick, quicker, quickest, quickly, fast, faster, fastest, slow, slower, slowest, slowly
 Old, older, oldest, new, newer, newest
 Hour, o'clock, half past
 How long ago?
 Once, twice
 First, second, third, etc.
 Estimate Length, width, height, depth
 Long, longer, longest, short, shorter
 shortest, tall, taller, tallest, high, higher, highest
 Low, wide, narrow, deep, shallow, thick, thin
 Far, near, close
 Metre, ruler, metre stick
 Money, coin, penny, pence, pound, price, cost, buy, sell, spend, spent, pay, change, cheaper, Total
 Quarter past/to m/km, g/kg, ml/l
 Temperature (degrees)