

Powerful Questions

to Help Kids Become Independent & Productive

Powerful questions are prompts our tutors use to ask kids how they might best tackle some of the common yet tricky obstacles they encounter.

Asking questions to spark thinking is far more effective than “telling” a child what they need to do. But the way these questions are framed is key.

Here’s a side-by-side comparison of some common yes/no/why questions a parent might naturally ask, and some powerful alternatives you could replace them with to encourage independent thinking:

Yes/No/Why Questions	Powerful Questions
Do you have homework?	What are your priorities today?
Did you study for that science test?	What’s the one thing you might do to study for your science test?
Are you ready for your big English exam?	On a scale of 1-10, how prepared do you feel for the English exam?
Why didn’t you study?	Going forward, what’s the one thing you might do differently?
Why didn’t you turn that in?	Did something get in your way of getting that assignment done?