

Assessment

0 – 25 Specialist Teaching And Support Service

How to use Blank Level questions to assess understanding of language.



Use the range of questions from the document 'Blank Level Questions for Assessment' across all situations in the setting. This should include group input as well as one to one time with supporting adults. This assessment is likely to take at least a week.

Blank language level examples:

Blank level	Type of question or demand	Example
1	Points to an object.	Pick up the ... Show me the ... Give me the...
	Names an object.	What is this?
	Finds a matching object.	Find one like this...
	Names something that has just been seen or heard.	What did you put in the basket? What was that noise?
2	Identifies object by function.	What can you cut with?
	Identifies object by description.	Which one is yellow?
	Describes what is happening .	What are they doing?
	Answers who? What? Where? From a statement or picture.	Mum is in the shop buying bread. Who is in the shop? What is mum buying? Where is mum?
	Describes difference.	How are these different?
	Give examples within a category.	What fruit do you eat?
3	Arranges pictures in sequence.	Put the pictures in order to make a story
	Describe events.	What happened?
	Assumes role of another.	What did the boy say?

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	States feelings of another.	How does the boy feel?
	Predicts.	What will happen next?
	Gives examples but listens to extra conditions.	What can the boy play which is not noisy?
	Describe similarities.	How are these the same?
	Follow a set of directions.	Get your book and then your pen.
	Defines words.	What does 'melt' mean?
4	Justifies decisions and predictions.	Why did you do that or why will it happen?
	Makes inferences.	How do you know...?
	Identifies cause.	What made it happen?
	Solves problems.	What could you do?
	Solves problems from another person's point of view.	What could the girl do?

Things to note:

This resource sheet is part of the Early Years Blank Level Toolkit.

- Help Sheet – Supporting Children to Understand Language
- [Assessment – Blank Level Questions for Assessment](#)
- Resource - (4 Levels) – Blank Level 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 Question Examples for Early Years

Evidence base – informed by:

Blank, Rose and Berlin (1978)

Liz Elks & Henrietta McLachlan 'ELKLAN Language Builders' 2013