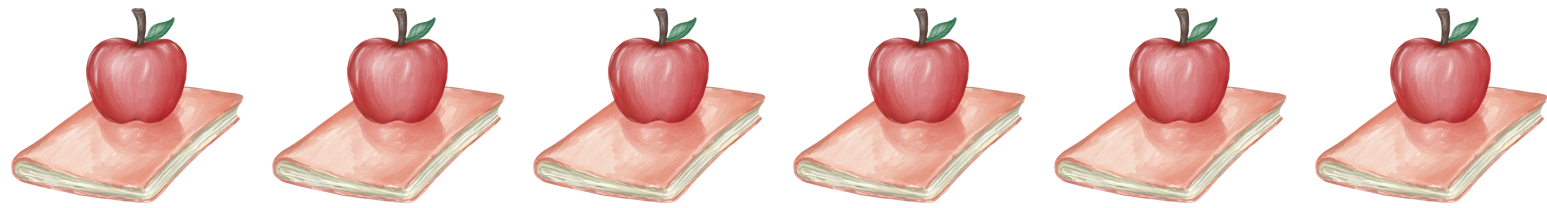


# 100+ Learning Prompts for 4–6 Year Olds



## Learning Prompts to Spark Imagination

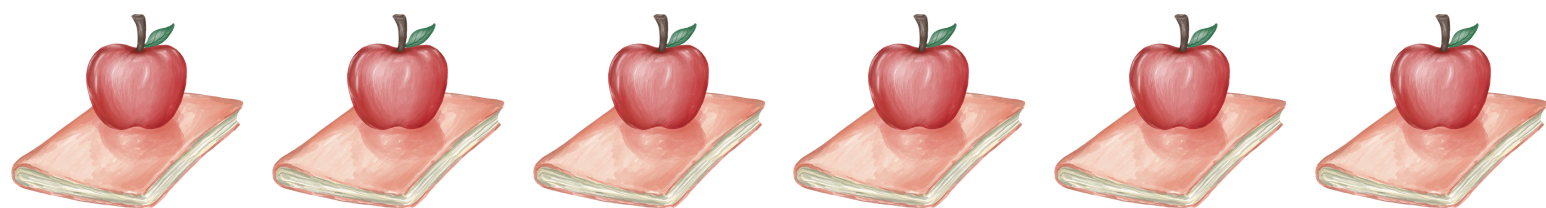
### Story starters

- Once upon a time, a little squirrel found a shiny key. What do you think it opens?
- If you could talk to animals, what would you ask them?
- A brown bear and a polar bear meet. What do they ask each other?

- Imagine you found a tiny door in the woods. What is behind it?
- What would you do if you woke up with wings?

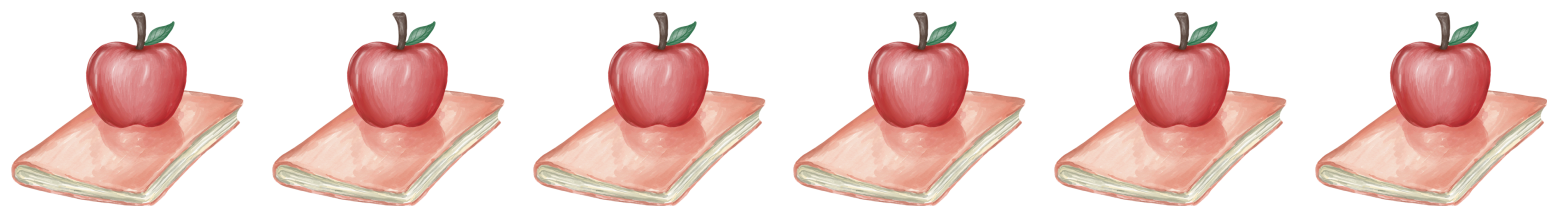
## Creative scenarios

- Your toys are hungry. What are you going to cook for them?
- Let's go outside and pretend the world lost all its colour. How will we get it back?
- You're about to build your own castle! What will it look like, and who will live there with you?
- You discover a cave full of sparkling jewels and a friendly dragon. What happens next?
- You've just discovered a new species of animal! What does it look like, and what will you call it?



## Fun and silly

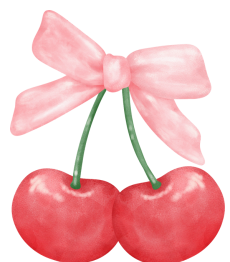
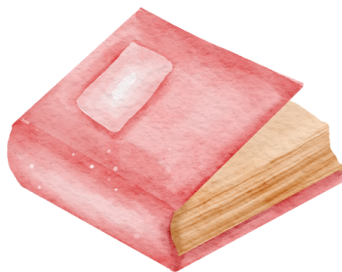
- If you could be any object, what would you be and why?
- Your socks have come alive! Where do they go, and what do they do?
- Everything in the world has turned into food! What does everything look like?
- Some naughty aliens have landed on earth. What do they get up to? How will you convince them to go back to space?
- You have a very unusual superpower. What is it, and how do you use it?
- Let's pretend we're an animal with a tail! What would it be like?



# Language and Literacy Prompts

## Letters and words

- Can you find something in the room that starts with the letter D?
- What words rhyme with:
  - dog
  - sheep
  - tea
  - bubble
  - book
  - coat
  - bright
  - cloud
  - hair
  - cherry
  - pet

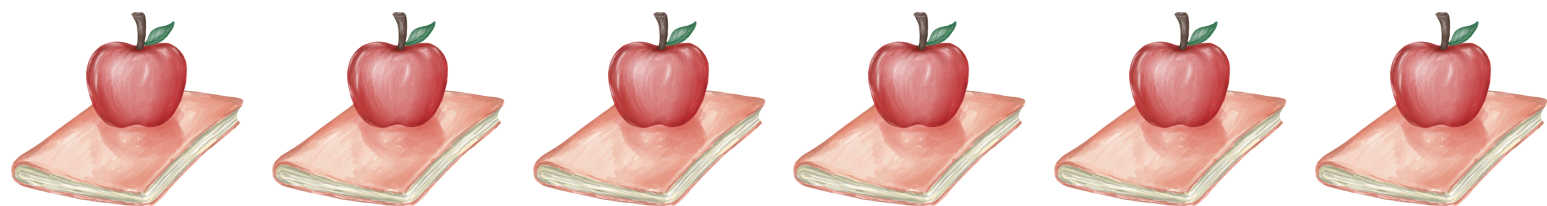


- Can you find all the letters in your name in this book?
- Can you name three things that are the colour green?
- Can you think of an animal that starts with S?
- Can you think of an object that starts with C?
- What's another word for angry?
- What words can we use to describe a cat?
- What word sounds like dog but means to run fast?
- How many letters are in your name? Can you spell it?
- What letters are in your favourite colour or favourite food?
- Find some things around the house. Can you spell out what they are?
- Let's read this story and find all the words that start with B.
- Let's name a word for every letter of the alphabet.
- I'm thinking of a word. It's something that you wear on your head. What is it?



# Reading and storytelling

- Let's read a book about a dinosaur and describe what we see in the pictures.
- Who was your favourite character in this story?  
What did you like about them?
- A little mouse finds a piece of cheese. What happens next?
- I'll start the sentence: 'The big whale jumped out of the sea and . . .' Now you finish it!
- Can you describe all the colours and shapes in this picture?
- Let's pretend you're a character from this book.  
What would you do in the story?
- Can you point to all the words that start with C in this book?



# Maths and Problem-Solving Prompts

## Counting

- Can you count how many pairs of socks are in your drawer?
- If you have 5 toys on your bed and I take 2 away, how many toys are left on your bed?
- Let's count all of the books on your shelf. Then let's see how many are your favourites.

## Shapes, patterns and numbers

- Can you find something in this room that is shaped like a circle?
- Let's make different patterns with your toys.
- Let's go outside. What shapes can you see?
- Look at the sky. What do the clouds look like?
- What numbers are on a clock?

- Let's look around the house and find things with numbers on.
- Are there any shapes or patterns on your clothes?

## Sorting and grouping

- Can you group your toys by size? Which pile has the most?
- Let's find things of the same colour. How many things do we have?
- Let's look at some coins. Let's sort them by colour and then size.
- Can you organise the shoes? Which size belongs to who?

## Problem-solving

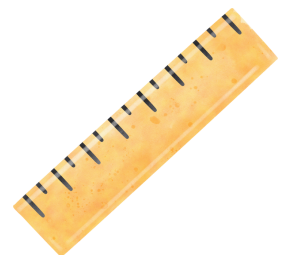
- How can we build a tower that won't fall over?  
Let's practise with some blocks.
- Let's fill some different cups with water. Which cup do you think holds the most water?



- We have a banana, an apple, a cup, and some grapes. Which is the odd one out?
- We have the numbers 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Which number is missing?
- There are 3 ducklings in the pond and 2 more join them. How many ducklings are there now?

## Measurement

- Let's see how many footsteps it takes to cross the room!
- Gather all your toys. Which toy is the tallest? Which toy is the biggest?
- Let's fill up a jug of water and measure how much needs to go into each cup.
- Let's get a tape measure or ruler and measure things around the house. What was the tallest thing you measured?



# Science and Exploration Prompts

## Experiments

- What happens if we mix blue and red paint together?
- We're going to create a volcano. What do you think will happen when we mix the vinegar and baking soda together?
- Let's get a straw and put some water and washing up liquid in a bowl. What do you think will happen when we blow through the straw?
- Let's freeze some water. How long do you think it will take to freeze?
- How long do you think it will take for our ice cubes to melt when we take them out? What will help them melt faster?



## Five senses

- Close your eyes and focus on what you can hear.
- How can you tell the difference between a good smell and a bad smell?
- I'm going to put some things in a box and you have to guess what they are only by touching them.
- Let's try some different food. What is the difference between sweet and savoury flavours?
- Let's go outside and make a list of all the things we see.
- Why is it harder to see things in the dark?

## Animals and habitats

- What animals live in cold climates, and what animals live in hot climates?
- Why do some animals only eat plants and other animals eat meat?
- Which animals eat both plants and meat?

- What are the differences between land animals and sea animals?
- If we were to make a habitat for a turtle, what would it look like? What about a hedgehog?

## Nature and exploration

- Let's go on a walk and find something that is smooth and something that is rough.
- Let's collect some leaves. What patterns do you see?
- Why do you think flowers are different colours and sizes?
- Look at the trees. What makes them different?
- What do birds use to make their nests? What are nests for?
- If we dug up some soil, what bugs might we find?



# Weather

- What is the weather like today? How does it feel outside?
- Why does it feel warmer when the sun's out?
- What do you think happens to the ground when it rains?
- What do plants need to grow?

# Art and Creativity Prompts

## Arts and crafts

- Let's pick a material and make something out of it!
- What things can we make out of paper?
- Can you draw a picture of what you want to be when you grow up?
- Let's look for inspiration outside and then paint something.
- Let's collect some natural materials and use them to make a craft.

- Can you find some stones outside and paint different faces on them?
- Let's find an old piece of clothing and draw a design on it.
- Let's see if we can make a bridge out of sticks or straws.
- Can you paint with your fingers and make a rainbow?

## Music

- Can you clap to the rhythm of this song?
- What instruments do you hear in this song?
- What sounds do different instruments make?
- Can you make up a song about an animal?



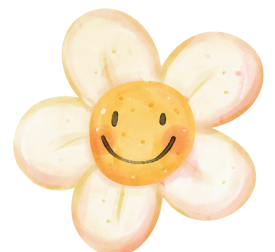
## Performing

- Let's act out your favourite story or song!
- Can you make up a new dance move and teach it to me?
- Can you pretend to be a superhero and save me?
- Can you dress up as your favourite character?

## Social and Emotional Learning Prompts

### Feelings and expressions

- What makes you happy? What makes you sad?
- How do you feel when you play with your friends?
- Can you show me a happy face?
- Why might someone be excited?
- If someone is frowning, how might they be feeling?
- What makes you smile?
- Why do we feel certain emotions?



## Taking turns and scenarios

- Why is it important to share?
- Let's play a game and take it in turns.
- If someone was feeling left out, how would you involve them?
- What would you do if you broke something? Who could you ask for help?
- If your friend wanted to play with your favourite toy, what could you do?
- How would you help someone who made a mistake?



## Kindness and empathy

- How can we help someone who feels sad?
- What do you think a puppy would feel if it was left outside?
- If someone was being unkind, what could you do?
- What could you do to make someone laugh?
- Can you put yourself in someone else's shoes and imagine how they are feeling?



## Role play

- Can you pretend you are a teacher? What would you teach me?
- Pretend you are a doctor. How will you help your sick teddy bear?
- You're a chef! What are you going to cook for me?
- Pretend you are a pilot. What places would you fly to?

## Physical Activity Prompts

- Let's see how many laps of the garden you can run in 2 minutes.
- Can you hop like a bunny and roar like a lion?
- How many star jumps can you do until you feel tired?
- Can you walk across the room and balance this book on your head?

- Copy what I do! Then I'll copy you!
- Let's pretend the floor is lava. Where can you step safely?
- Let's create an indoor obstacle course and time how fast you can complete it.

