



What Can a Parent Do to Promote Thinking?

“Children grow into the intellectual life around them.”

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of **Cause and Effect** means: Recognizing actions and their reactions. The cause is the event and the effect is what happens as a result.

Ideas and tips for parents for this skill:

- Identify what kind of relationship is present:
- Chain of events (dominoes are a great example)
- Multiple causes and effects (a variety of causes for a decision, or multiple effects of a particular action)
- Identify actions and look for reactions (science, weather, natural disasters, real world experiences)

Identify words that signal a cause and effect relationship- “signal words”

- Because, therefore, so that, in order to, because of, as a result, cause, effect, since, then, thus, unless, accordingly, consequently, reasons...for, nevertheless, explanation...for,

Literature that support the application of this skill:

Chain of Events	Action=Reaction
Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears	Weather & Erosion
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie	Tornadoes
The Napping House	Lots of science experiments
Sparrow Girl	Current Events
The Two Bobbies	
Comet's Nine Lives	
The Giving Tree	
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble	
She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head!	

Questions that a parent can ask his/her child to reinforce this skill:

- What kind of a relationship do these events have?
- What is the cause? What is the effect in this situation?
- How do “signal words” help you identify cause and effect relationships in the text?
- Why did the author use cause and effect in the structure of this story?