

# Questioning in Roadville

Table 4.1. *Types of questions asked of preschool children in Roadville*

Type	Response called for	Examples	
		Question	Response
Question-statement	No verbal response. Used primarily in baby talk addressed to young infants; carries a content message to nearby adult listener who is expected to interpret the message as a mild directive or as a statement about the baby	Mamma's got to get some softer bed sheets, don't she? Bobby's getting' a rash	(None)
Q-I (Questioner has information)	Specific piece of information known to both questioner and addressee. Used often to initiate ritualistic rote performances	What's that? (pointing to a picture in a book)	Nuffie
Question-directive	Realignment of behavior and/or utterance of a politeness formula. Often carries secondary message to listeners other than the child	Don't you know I just wiped that off? (said to a child dropping crumbs on the table)	I'm sorry (brushing crumbs off)
A-I (Answerer has information)	Specific information known to addressee, but not to questioner	Do you want chocolate or vanilla?	'nilla

*Note.* These types are *not* listed in approximate order of frequency, because the frequency of each varies greatly in accordance with the age of the children and who is around as audience.