

## Helping With Chores: 16-24 Months

### Helping with household chores will help your child:

- Build self-esteem
- Feel like he is an important part of the family
- Practice steps needed to complete a goal

### Ideas to try with your child:

- Provide a place for your child to store toys. Baskets are great for books, balls, and small toys so your child can be independent.
- Play the “Pick-up Game” with your child. Say: “Let’s see who can pick up the most toys and put them away first.”
- Ask your child for help. Say, “Can you pick up the doll and put her in the toy box, please?” or “Where does the book go?” Then, thank him for his help and say: “You are learning so fast.”
- Other tasks your child can help with:
  - Putting his dirty clothes into the clothes hamper.
  - Carry clean dish towels to the drawer. (He may drop a few!)
  - Wash off his play table with a small wet rag.
  - Put his shoes in the closet or near the door.

### If your child is struggling:

- Find a toy that needs to be put away and ask your child to help you put it where it belongs, such as finding a book and putting it on the shelf.
- Give your child a choice about which toy he would like to pick up; the doll or the truck. You pick up the other toy and praise his efforts in picking up the room.

### Going further:

- Help your child learn to stack clean towels and assist in putting them away.
- Work together to match pairs of socks.
- Read stories about working together. The series books *Curious George* by H.A. Rey or *Clifford, the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell show these characters as helpers.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 16 to 36 months** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Help with simple chores in the family or classroom community.” *Building Relationships, Ages-16-36 months*, pg. 45