

## Look What I Can Do!: 16-24 Months

### Doing creative activities will help your child:

- Express himself with art materials such as crayons
- Learn different ways to move his body
- Learn to sing and make up simple songs

### Ideas to try with your child:

- Give your child regular-sized crayons and blank paper. (No jumbo crayons needed!) Forget coloring pages: use recycled paper from your printer, envelopes from junk mail, or large freezer paper to make marks on. If your child puts crayons in his mouth say, "The crayon stays on the paper."
- Sing and play a variety of familiar age-appropriate music for your child throughout the day, in the car or at home, and sing along!
- Have instruments, scarves, and ribbons for your child to dance with to different kinds of music: fast, slow, quiet or loud

### If your child is struggling:

- Take your child outside and give him a paintbrush and water to paint with on the sidewalk, fence or walls.
- Have a daily music time with your child. Sing and play fun, silly songs. Look for "Singable Songs for the Very Young" or "One Light, One Sun," both by Raffi and available through your library. (Check Youtube for a sample of the music.)
- Look for other children's musicians such as Greg & Steve, Hap Palmer, or Ella Jenkins.

### Going further:

- Put your child's art work on the fridge or wall. Say "I like the picture you made-tell me about it."
- Offer other art materials such as chalk and paint when your child shows he's ready by not putting things in his mouth.
- Make homemade instruments with your child: a drum from a round oatmeal box, a shaker made with rice in a sealed plastic bottle or sticks to bang together.

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 16-24 months** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Use a variety of materials to express self, such as paint, crayons, and musical instruments." *Learning About My World*, Ages-16-36 months, pg. 51