

## Exploring Nature & Science: 24-36 Months

### Exploring nature will help your child:

- Learn the different parts of living things—leaves of trees, petals of flowers, or wings of bugs
- Take care of living things such as plants and animals in a kind way
- Use weather concepts such as sun, rain, snow

### Ideas to try with your child:

- Take your child outside to play or go for a walk to talk about things in nature such as plants, flowers, bugs, animals, and the weather.
- Explore parts of flowers, bugs, and trees with your child. Say things like: “These are the petals, stem and seeds of the flower;” “Trees have leaves, a trunk, and bark;” “The butterfly has wings.”
- Show your child how to take care of plants and animals with care. “We pat the dog gently;” “We water the flowers to help them grow;” “We pick up our trash to keep our neighborhood clean.”

### If your child is struggling:

- Let your child help take care of plants and flowers by showing them how to use a small watering can or hose.
- Read books with photos of things in nature and talk about them. Look for books by author Tana Hoban, or the National Geographic Little Kids series.

### Going further:

- Let your child help out with household chores such as taking care of pets, recycling, or planting a garden.
- Read stories about different kinds of animals, plants, and weather in different countries, like *Animal Photo Books* by Kate Riggs, *Polar Bear Polar Bear* by Eric Carle, *A Tree is Nice* by Janice May Udry, *Snow* by Uri Shulevitz. All available through **Bookvine.com** or at your **library!**

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 24-36 months** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Show interest in animals and other living things. Begin to label them by name and to identify traits.” *Learning About My World*, Ages-16-36 months, pg. 51