

## “Read to me, please!”

### Reading with your child will help him to:

- See the connection between spoken words and print
- Build a bigger vocabulary to become a good reader
- Learn to enjoy reading

### Ideas to try with your child:

- Keep a basket or shelf of books within your child’s reach to invite frequent reading.
- Set aside time daily to read together and talk about what you are reading.
- Take your child to the library and have him check out books every week. Library cards are usually free!
- Read favorite books aloud over and over. As he becomes familiar with the stories, encourage your child to look at them by himself.

### If your child is struggling:

- Ask your child questions about the story as you read, starting with questions like, “What’s happening in this picture?”
- Ask your child to point out things in the pictures that he recognizes too, and then tell you about it.
- Read fewer words than are on the page if needed to keep your child interested. You can also try out different voices for characters!

### Going further:

- Look at words in books and on signs together and say things like, “That word says ‘Stop’” or “It begins with an S like your name, Sam.” This will help him start to recognize words and letters.
- Use the pictures to predict what will happen in a story. Ask something like, “What do you think he will do next?” or “Who do you think is knocking on the door?”
- Find great books at <http://www.squidoo.com/books-3-year-olds#module157275251> or your local library’s website.



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 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Enjoy picture books and being read to.” *Communicating (literacy)*, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 63