

Exploring My World: 16-24 Months

Exploring the world around her will help your child:

- Use her senses such as looking and feeling
- Show interest in living things by talking about real plants and animals
- Begin to name animals and the sounds they make

Ideas to try with your child:

- Take short walks daily and invite your child to touch things during the walk. Say things like “the flower petal is soft,” or “the bark on the tree is rough.”
- Take a paper bag and let your child put leaves, sticks and rocks in it that she finds. Bring them home and talk about her “collection.”
- Go out after it rains and let your child stamp her feet in the puddles and touch the cool water.
- Look for animals in the neighborhood and talk about the sounds they make. “The dog says ‘woof-woof.’ He has a long tail and pointed ears.”

If your child is struggling:

- Read stories about animals and the sounds they make. Look for: Moo, Baa, La-La-La by Sandra Boynton, The Noisy Counting Book by Susan Schade or Baby Farm Animals by Garth Williams
- Blow bubbles for your child and invite her to catch them. Talk about how they feel and let her blow bubbles too!

Going further:

- Show your child how to take care of plants by watering. Say, “Plants need water to grow.”
- Let your child help feed the family pet. Say things like, “Dog food helps Daisy grow to be a big dog,” or “When she barks she is trying to talk to us.”

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*: “Explore nature using the senses such as looking at and feeling different leaves” *Learning About My World*, Ages-16-36 months, pg. 51