

Find It!: Ages 16-24 Months

Finding or pointing to objects by use or function helps your child:

- Increase her awareness of everyday items
- Increase vocabulary skills
- Learn to answer *what* questions

Ideas to try with your child:

- Name everything with detail for your child to build her word knowledge. Talk about “Red shoes for walking,” “Tall, green trees make shade,” or “The librarian is going to read us a story.”
- When asking your child to find or point to an object, make sure the objects are close by. Ask questions such as: “What do we use to eat?” “What do you wear on your feet?” “What do we use to turn on the TV?”
- Build vocabulary by asking about the use of common objects like books, spoons, socks, scissors, and crayons: “What do you read?” “What do you use to eat soup?” “What do we put on before we put shoes on?” Young children need much practice and repetition.

If your child is struggling:

- Connect objects to words for your child. Showing her shoes and a spoon, ask “Which one do you use to eat soup?”
- When going outside; ask “What do you need to go outside?” and then give 2 choices: shoes or a book.

Going further:

- Point to items from books, magazines or pictures and ask questions while you read: “What do you put on cereal?” “What does the pig sleep on?”
- Prompt your child to use language. When eating ice cream ask your child first, “What do you need to eat ice cream?” instead of just giving her a spoon. After a bath ask your child “What do you need to dry off” before handing her the towel.

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*: “Point to and name objects when told their use (“What do you drink with?”) *Communicating, Ages-16-36 months*, pg. 48