

“Read Story, Please”: Ages 16-24 Months

Reading your child’s favorite story or book over and over helps your child:

- Learn to handle a book correctly
- Become familiar with the words and predictability of the story
- Label objects on the page and describe the pictures

Ideas to try with your child:

- Make reading a daily routine each morning, at naptime, after dinner or before bed.
- Put your child on your lap or next to you so he can see the pictures easily.
- Make the books exciting for your child by using different voices. Be quiet on some parts and loud on other parts.
- Show your child how to hold the book correctly. He can begin to turn the pages.
- Have books all over the house. Offer plastic waterproof books in the bathroom like Little Quack’s Bath Book by Lauren Thompson, and board books such as Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise.
- Books can be in baskets in the living room, at the kitchen table, or near a favorite chair for your child to enjoy on his own and with you.

If your child is struggling:

- If your child is not sitting for an entire book, just read 1-2 pages at a time. Do this daily and around the same time.
- If your child is not interested in stories, have him sit with you and look at the pictures. Have him point out things or tell one thing about each page (bear climbing, red apple).
- Relate things on the page to his life: “That looks like grandma’s kitty,” or “Daddy has a blue truck.”
- Try touch and feel books such as Touch and Feel First Words by DK Publishing or The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle.

Going further:

- With books you have read over and over, tell part of the story incorrectly and see if your child corrects you.
- When reading, use your finger to point at each word as you read.
- When reading or telling stories like “The 3 Little Pigs,” have your child supply the end of the sentence “Then I will huff and Puff and blow your house_____” each time you come to that part of the story.

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*: “Ask to be read to, or for storytelling. Request a favorite book or story many times.” *Communicating, Ages-16-36 months*, pg. 49