

My Favorite Book: 24-36 Months

Requesting a favorite story or book over and over helps your child:

- Learn and expand his vocabulary
- Learn to recite lines and patterns from the books
- Learn to “read” and “tell” the story again by repeating what they have heard

Ideas to try with your child:

- Choose books with patterns of repeated language and phrases such as Brown Bear Brown Bear or Polar Bear Polar Bear by Bill Martin, or Dinosaurs Dinosaurs by Bryon Barton.
- Read or tell stories for at least 20 minutes daily.
- Make the books come alive by using different voices for the characters.
- Touching each word as you read helps your child begin to understand that the words go with the pictures.
- The public library or thrift stores are great places to find toddler books. Look for ones with rich text such as Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw or Freight Train by Donald Crews

If your child is struggling:

- Read to your child daily, even if you only keep them interested in the book for 2-3 pages.
- Try different times of the day to engage your child with books, such as right before bed, after nap, or before bath time.
- Use books with pages that flip up like Peek a Who or Peek a Zoo by Nina Landen
- Have books ready for your child by having them in a basket in the living room or some in the bathroom.

Going further:

- After reading, have your child tell you the story in his own words.
- Using pattern books, pause and let your child finish the phrase. You say “Red bird, Red Bird,” and pause to have your child finish with “what do you see?”
- Look for books with fun pictures and words: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle or Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

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

