

## What Is Happening In This Picture?

### Drawing pictures and describing them helps your child:

- Express her ideas in pictures
- Organize her thoughts as she tells you about her work
- See the difference between letters and pictures as you write down what she dictates



### Ideas to try with your child:

- Read a book with your child and then:
  - Provide drawing materials such as crayons, markers, or pencils, and unlined paper;
  - Invite your child to draw something she remembers from the story;
  - Ask her “What is happening in this picture?” Ask permission to write down the words she talks about on her picture.
- Read and act out a story together that is familiar to your child. Ask your child to draw a picture about the story and retell the story as best she can. Folk tales work well for this activity: *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, or *The Three Little Pigs*.

### If your child is struggling:

- Ask your child what you should draw. Choose something from her life to help her at first (a picture of your dog, the house, etc.)
- Prompt her to tell a story about what you have drawn.
- Invite your child to draw on a tray or cookie sheet with finger paint, shaving cream, or pudding.

### Going further:

- Sit with your child and draw a picture together. You begin the picture and then pass the crayon to your child. When you’re done, ask your child to tell a story about your picture.
- Grab a bag and fill it with several objects such as an apple, a pair of sunglasses, a small truck, and a stuffed toy. Let your child look into the bag, and discuss the objects. Make up a story together with the items as props.



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** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Draw a picture and tell their story.” *Communicating (Literacy), Ages 3-4*, pg. 63