



PARENT *handout*

Let's Learn Colors

Your 2-year-old is learning colors, even if he isn't saying the names of colors yet. Learning colors takes a long time. There are three steps. Each step may take weeks or months, and your child needs lots of practice.

Step 1: Matching colors. Your child can give you something that is the same color as something you have. For example, if you place a red bowl on the table he can find the red cup that matches it.

To help him, you can:

- > Make clean-up time learning time. Ask your child to pick up all the toys of one color. When he is finished, go on to another color.
- > Pick a "color of the day." Look for the special color all day long. Wear clothes of that color. Play with play dough that is the special color. Eat foods that are that color. The more colorful things you do with your child, the faster he will get the message about matching colors.
- > Say the color names of things all day long.

Step 2: Pointing to colors. Soon your child will be able to find a color you name. If you ask him to hand you the red sweater, he will do it.

To help him, you can:

- > Ask him to point to packages and cans that are a certain color.
- > Pick out pictures of colored objects when you read together. Say, "Let's find the yellow fruit on this page."
- > Play the I Spy game. Say "I spy with my little eye something in this room that is ... blue." Your child has to find what it is.

Step 3: Naming colors. The final step in learning colors is to say the color names. When your child can answer the question "What color is this?" you know he has learned his colors.

To help him, you can:

- > Read books about colors. Ask your child the name of the color on each page.
- > Ask your child to tell you about the colors he uses in his artwork.

***Is my child color blind?** Some parents worry that their child is colorblind because he can't name his colors. Color blindness is rare. Some children just need a little extra time to learn color names. If your child is still confusing colors by the time he is 4 years old, ask his doctor about it.*