

Developmental Milestones

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.



Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 18 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What most babies do by this age:

Social and Emotional

- ◆ Likes to hand things to others as play
- ◆ May have temper tantrums
- ◆ May be afraid of strangers
- ◆ Shows affection to familiar people
- ◆ Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- ◆ May cling to caregivers in new situations
- ◆ Points to show others something interesting
- ◆ Explores alone but with parent close by

Language/Communication

- ◆ Says several single words
- ◆ Says and shakes head "no"
- ◆ Points to show someone what he wants

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ◆ Knows what ordinary things are for; for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- ◆ Points to get the attention of others
- ◆ Shows interest in a doll or stuffed animal by pretending to feed
- ◆ Points to one body part
- ◆ Scribbles on his own
- ◆ Can follow 1-step verbal commands without any gestures; for example, sits when you say "sit down"

Movement/Physical Development

- ◆ Walks alone
- ◆ May walk up steps and run
- ◆ Pulls toys while walking
- ◆ Can help undress herself
- ◆ Drinks from a cup
- ◆ Eats with a spoon

Act early by talking to your child's doctor if your child:

- ◆ Doesn't point to show things to others
- ◆ Can't walk
- ◆ Doesn't know what familiar things are for
- ◆ Doesn't copy others
- ◆ Doesn't gain new words
- ◆ Doesn't have at least 6 words
- ◆ Doesn't notice or mind when a caregiver leaves or returns
- ◆ Loses skills he once had



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