

18 Months-24 Months

Guide to Developmental Milestones



Social Emotional Development/Behavior

- Adult must be able to support child in times of high emotions, such as during tantrums in order to teach them to deal with frustration
- Increased efforts of self control
- Parallel play
- Goal-directed play and behavior
- Egocentric thinking
- Beginnings of empathy towards others
- Is easily frustrated and jealous of attention given to others
- Has a repertoire of emotional expressions
- Engages in social games (playful give and take)
- Increase in motor and communication skills allows for increased independence and exploration of their environment
- Expresses self verbally and non-verbally
- Responds to and initiates interaction with others (hugs, offers a toy)



Gross Motor Skills

- Walks down stairs with support
- Walks independently on an 8 inch wide board
- Jumps up and forwards
- Stands on tiptoes
- Moves forward/backward on a riding toy
- Walks a few steps on a 2 inch balance beam
- Walks up stairs without support
- Begins to run
- Jumps down from stair height
- Kicks a ball
- Climbs onto an adult chair, turns around and sits down



Fine Motor Skills

- Paints within limits of paper
- Explores content of cabinets and drawers
- Turns pages one at a time
- Imitates vertical lines, horizontal lines and circular scribbles
- Stacks 3-5 small blocks
- Starts to use his/her fingers and thumb to grasp crayons
- Picks up tiny objects using the tips of his/her fingers and thumb to place in a small container
- Completes simple 4-5 piece puzzles (non-interlocking pieces)

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Self-help

- Gives empty dish to adult
- Unzips/zips large zippers (once engaged)
- Begins eating with fork
- Removes shoes (with laces undone)
- Helps with washing and drying hands
- Cooperates with dressing



Sensory

- Likes rough-and-tumble play
- Likes messy play (i.e. paint, sand, etc.)
- Distinguishes between edible and non-edible objects



Speech, Language and Hearing

- Vocabulary of 15-20 words at 18 months
- Vocabulary of 50 words at 24 months
- Follows simple, familiar 2-step commands
- Refers to self by name
- Consonants begin to emerge, including p, b, t, d, m, n, w, h
- Uses new words regularly
- Understands new words rapidly
- Matches sounds to animals
- Uses early pronouns occasionally
- Begins to use true two-word combinations (ex: baby crying, want cookie)



Oral Motor and Feeding

- Drinks in long sequences
- Bites off solid food
- Uses a cup with few spills
- Chews meat competently



All children develop at their own pace, but you can use this guide to help you know what to look for along the way. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your infant's/child's development, please contact **Milestones For Kids' Success** at **630.792.1800** for a FREE developmental screening.

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