



# Developmental Milestones: 12 to 18 Months

Developmental milestones are skills or behaviors that most children will start or master by a certain age. Children reach milestones in many ways: speaking, learning, moving, and playing. There are things you can do with your child to help them reach these milestones.

## Cognitive, Play, and Communication Skills

Look for your child to show these signs at 12- to 18-months-old:

- Stacks blocks and rings
- Pushes and pulls toys
- Babbles
- Mimics simple words and sounds
- Combines gestures with words like waving and saying, “Bye-bye”
- Finds simple objects when asked like a ball, teddy, or cup
- Looks for objects you hide
- Understands “No”
- Knows their eyes, nose, ears, and mouth
- Uses 8 to 10 words
- Plays with toys in hands, less in their mouth

## Motor Skills

Your child will do more as they grow. Look for these small and large body movements:

- Turns book pages
- Uses a crayon to mark on paper
- Rolls a ball forward
- Carries an object when walking
- Stays standing in 1 spot without help
- Stands up from the floor without holding on to anything
- Walks without help
- Walks backward and sideways
- Marks on paper with a crayon
- Tries to run by fast walking
- Does simple puzzles
- Uses thumb and index fingers to pick up small objects

## How You Can Help

You can help with your child's developmental milestones by:

- Kicking and throwing a ball with them.
- Reading books, talking about the pictures, letting them turn pages, and pointing to things.
- Having them repeat words you say during playing.
- Naming objects during play so they know what they're called.
- Doing simple 3 to 5-piece knob puzzles.
- Using toys that help your child problem solve, like stacking, opening, and closing.
- Having items for pretend play like dolls, trucks, doctor's kits.
- Having your child use sort toys, like blocks with a shape box.
- Having your child stand without holding on to anything.
- Walking with a push toy.
- Helping with their balance.
  - Have them pick up toys by squatting.
  - Make a simple obstacle course to walk through.

If you have any questions about your child's development, call their doctor or health care provider.