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Baby milestones by 18 months

If you have concerns about a child's development and think a child might need extra help to learn and grow, do not hesitate to refer a child. The family will be contacted by the local school district to arrange for a screening or evaluation to determine if their child is eligible for Infant and Toddler Intervention or Preschool Special Education services in Minnesota. You've been invited to a baby shower for a friend, relative or coworker, but you don't know what gift to buy. That's where the baby registry comes in. But with so many options for baby registries available these days, there are several ways to find the one you need. Baby List Most of the time, when you receive a baby shower invitation, the hosts provide a link to the new parents' registry. However, if they didn't, or you weren't invited to a shower and just want to pick up a gift for someone special, there are many sites out there that allow the parents-to-be register and ask for gifts from multiple stores all in one place. One popular site is Baby List. To find a registry, all you need to do is enter the name of one of the new parents, and the site should guide you right to their page. The Bump Another similar option is the website The Bump. The site has a baby registry finder that allows you to enter one of the future parents' names, and it can then help you find their registry as long as they're registered at a shop from a specific selection of stores. They include Target, Walmart, Pottery Barn Kids, Amazon, Crate and Barrel, BuyBuyBaby and several other stores that sell baby goods. When you receive your results, you'll see each registry the parents created at each store. My Registry My Registry is a site dedicated to helping you find baby and wedding registries along with wish lists for other occasions. You can search for registries by entering one of the new parents' names, or you can perform an advanced search and add more identifying information, like the relevant city, state or country. The site allows new parents to sync registries they already have and create a whole new registry from stores like Target, Walmart, Etsy, IKEA and Disney. Store Website If you can't find what you're looking for via one of the above sites, go straight to the store's website where the new mom or dad may have registered. Again, check the invitation or think about where the new parents-to-be like to shop. If all else fails, ask the new parents or their closest family members and friends. You can also take a few minutes and search some of the popular stores for baby registries. Visit the Store If you can't find what you're looking for online, you may find it by actually visiting the store. Target, Walmart, Ikea and Pottery Barn are some of the popular brick-and-mortar stores for baby registries, according to Today's Parent. Many of these big box stores have kiosks where you can search for registries and print them out. If you can't find the kiosk, talk to someone at customer service. MORE FROM QUESTIONS ANSWERED.NET Reviewed by Renee A. Allil, MD on March 07, 2021 Your baby is now 18 months old. How the time flies! What milestones should they have experienced at this age? Your child should be able to: Walk by themselves Possibly walk up steps or run Squat to pick up a toy Pull toys while they are walking Your child may try to climb out of their crib at this age. If so, put a bell on the crib so you can know when they are doing it and make sure the area in their bedroom is safe and free of items they could fall or stumble upon. Their climbing out of the crib could be a sign that it's time to move into a bed. Your child should be able to: Drink from a cup Eat with a spoon Stack two objects or blocks Help undress themselves Hold a crayon and scribble a line As they near 18 months, it will be easy for them to manipulate an object between their thumb and index finger (like turning a knob or putting a round peg in a hole). You can build on these skills by trying games such as putting large square pegs in matching holes (this is harder than with round pegs because you have to match angles), stacking five or six blocks or taking toys apart and putting them back together. You could also let them feed themselves sometimes, even if it is messy. Your child should be able to: Use 10-25 words Say the word "no" and shake their head Respond to questions Produce speech-like sounds (babbling), maybe singing along to a song in tone, if not words Understand the concepts of "in" and "on" Repeat some words heard in a conversation Point to people when they're named and identify objects in a book Continue speaking and reading to your child as a way to build their verbal skills. It's not unusual for them to be able to say a few words which no one can understand but their parents. They may also use one word in place of a whole sentence like "up" to mean, "Pick me up!" Being able to speak takes time, so don't be frustrated if they seem to be taking longer than other people's kids. You may find that one day they finally "gets it" and goe from rarely speaking to full sentences. Your child may: Like to hand objects to others as play Have temper tantrums Be fearful around strangers Cling to parents or caregivers in new situations Show affection to people they know well Explore alone, with a parent close by This is the age when children start to test boundaries. Your child may say "no" to any new situations or start to throw a tantrum to get their own way. What happened to your sweet little girl who did whatever you asked? They are still there, but learning independence -- and part of that is trying to do things their way. They are also beginning to understand what sharing is (by offering something to someone) although they may decide to take it back immediately. It's up to you as the parent to show them that temper tantrums are not acceptable and give them consequences for inappropriate behavior. But above all, be patient with them as they figure things out. Your child should be able to: Know the uses of ordinary things: a brush, spoon, or chair Point to a body part Scribble on their own Follow a one-step verbal command without any gestures (for instance, they can sit when you tell them to "sit down") Play pretend, such as feeding a doll Point to show others something interesting At this stage, kids love games with a "payoff" -- they press a button and some music starts to play, for instance. They'll also love playing with bubbles you've blown for them or repeating nursery rhymes with actions. Tell your doctor if your child can't do any of the following by 18 months: Point to show things to others Walk Imitate others Know the uses of ordinary things, like a brush or comb Gain new words or speak at least six words Notice or mind when you or another caregiver leaves or returns Remember skills they used to have At 18 months, your child should also be tested for autism as well as for general development, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. This would be particularly important if they show signs of developmental delay. Children younger than 18 months don't understand that the symbols on a screen represent equivalent objects in the real world, so the American Academy of Pediatrics doesn't recommend kids watch any screens before that age, whether on TV or a tablet. Children over 18 months can learn from high-quality educational programs, but their parents must watch with them and reteach the lessons. Don't let your child watch screens by themselves. © 2021 WebMD, LLC. All rights reserved. View privacy policy and trust info Feelings At this age, toddlers starts to experience new emotions like anger and frustration, guilt, shame, possessiveness and excitement. These 'big' emotions can be hard to deal with for your child, and you might see some temper tantrums as a result. Although your child's separation anxiety peaks at around 18 months, by 2 years it should start to settle down. Your child is also beginning to think about how they feel and might link feelings with words -- for example, your child might tell you they're 'sad'. They might show affection by giving you a kiss or hugging a doll, which is also part of developing empathy. Everyday skills Around this time, toddlers are keen to do more things independently. For example, your child is learning to feed themselves using a spoon and cup, and maybe even a fork -- there might even be fewer spills than before! Your child might try to help when getting dressed and undressed. At this age, it's easier for your child to take off socks, shoes and clothes without buttons. Generally, your child might show signs that they're ready for toilet training from 2 years on. But it's not unusual for some children to show signs of being ready earlier, at around 18 months. Playing and learning Play is important because it's how children learn. At this age, your child will start imagining and creating through pretend play -- for example, pretending to drink from a cup. As your child grows older, pretend play gets more complex, and you might find your child doing things like sweeping the floor with a tree branch. Your child will enjoy spending time with siblings and other children, even if they don't play directly with others. Talking Toddlers enjoy talking at this age. Your child's words might even have up-and-down tones, just like an adult's. You'll most likely hear a mix of 'babble' and real words. At 18 months, your child is learning words all the time -- usually 1-2 words a week, or maybe even a word a day. Your child might name and point at familiar objects, people and body parts -- for example, ears, nose or toes. Your child might also make animal sounds like 'moo' or say the same sound or word over and over. Your child knows their own name and the idea of 'mine'. They're getting better at understanding simple sentences and instructions like 'Bring it to Mum' or 'Let's go for a walk'. You'll be able to understand more of what your child says to you. By 2 years, your child might be able to say 'I', 'you' and 'me' and use sentences with 2-3 words -- for example, 'Mummy car' or 'me do it'. Moving Toddlers usually walk on their own by 18 months and begin to run. Your child will probably walk up and down stairs or climb furniture with your help. Throwing and kicking a ball, scribbling with pencils or crayons, and building small towers of blocks might be some of your child's favourite things. It's a good idea to look at how you can make your home safe for your active child to move around in. At this age, your child might also ask for 'more' and say 'no' when asked to do something copy you -- for example, they might help you sweep the floor sit themselves in a small chair walk around carrying larger objects use one hand more than the other by 2 years. When your child learns a new skill, celebrate the achievement with plenty of praise and positive attention. It's also a good idea to help and encourage your child to keep doing the things they've learned, even if those things are difficult. Helping toddler development at 18-24 months Here are some simple things you can do to help your child's development at this age. Be there for your child: If you're nearby while your child plays and explores, it gives your child confidence to try new things on their own. This can help your child to be independent and self-confident later on. Give your child the chance to play with others: play is a great way for your child to make friends and learn how to be with other children. But don't expect sharing and taking turns just yet -- toddlers often think that everything belongs to them. Encourage everyday skills like using a spoon, drinking from a cup and taking off a hat. These skills involve both small and big muscle movements, as well as your child's ability to think about what they're doing. Talk with your toddler: naming and talking about everyday things -- body parts, toys and household items like spoons or chairs -- helps develop language skills. At this age, you can teach your child that a 'chair' can be a 'big chair', 'red chair' or even a 'big red chair'. Give meaning to your child's talking by listening and talking back. If your child says 'Mama milk', you might reply by saying 'You want Mum to get you some milk?' This encourages conversation and helps your child build communication skills. It also makes your child feel valued and loved. Read with your child: you can encourage your child's talking and imagination by reading together, telling stories, singing songs and reciting nursery rhymes. Parenting toddlers at 18-24 months As a parent, you're always learning. It's OK to feel confident about what you know. And it's also OK to admit you don't know something and ask questions or get help. When you're focused on looking after a child, you might forget or run out of time to look after yourself. But looking after yourself physically, mentally and emotionally will help your child grow and thrive. Sometimes you might feel frustrated, upset or overwhelmed. It's OK to take some time out until you feel calmer. Put your child in a safe place like a cot, or ask someone else to look after your child for a while. Try going to another room to breathe deeply, or call a family member or friend to talk things through. Never shake a toddler. It can cause bleeding inside the brain and likely permanent brain damage. When to be concerned about toddler development at 18 months See your child and family health nurse or GP if you have any concerns or notice that your 18-month-old child has any of the following issues. Seeing, hearing and communicating Your child: has trouble seeing or hearing things doesn't say any single words doesn't point, wave or use other gestures doesn't follow simple instructions -- for example, 'Please give me the ball'. Behaviour and play Your child doesn't enjoy eye contact or cuddles with you or isn't showing their feelings. Movement and motor skills Your child: isn't walking on their own uses one hand a lot more than the other (usually children don't use one hand more than the other until closer to 2 years). When to be concerned about toddler development at 2 years See your child and family health nurse or GP if you notice your 2-year-old has any of the following issues. Seeing, hearing and communicating Your child: has trouble seeing or hearing things isn't using two words together -- for example, 'red car' can't follow simple instructions -- for example, 'Please give me the ball'. Behaviour and play Your child: isn't showing their feelings doesn't come to you for affection or comfort doesn't copy actions or words -- for example, when singing 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' doesn't pretend during play -- for example, doesn't pretend to talk on the phone. Movement and motor skills Your child: can't walk up and down stairs, even if holding on to you or a rail can't run finds it hard to handle small objects -- for example, a pencil or crayon isn't scribbling. You should see a child health professional if you notice your child is losing skills they had before. You should also see your child and family health nurse or GP if you or your partner experiences the signs of postnatal depression in birthing mothers or postnatal depression in non-birthing parents. Symptoms of postnatal depression include feeling sad and crying for no obvious reason, feeling irritable, having difficulty coping and feeling very anxious. Children grow and develop at different speeds. If you're worried about whether your child's development is 'normal', it might help to know that 'normal' varies a lot. But if you still feel that something isn't quite right, see your child and family health nurse or GP.

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