



Child Development Milestones – 18 months

The majority of children will achieve these milestones by the time they turn 18 months. All children develop at different rates. Some children are slower than others (developmentally delayed) but catch up with time. Other children, however, may have an underlying problem that causes their delayed development, and they may not catch up. It is important for these children to get as much treatment (early intervention) as possible. So if you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s development, see your child health nurse or doctor for help without delay. If in doubt, it is better to have your concerns checked than to ‘wait and see’.

✓ An average child can...	✓ Signs of possible problems include...
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Gross motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Stand and walk well alone	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to stand alone or walk
<input type="checkbox"/> Bend or crouch to pick up an object	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsteady or uneven gait (walking pattern)
<input type="checkbox"/> Climb ledge or up steps	
<input type="checkbox"/> Push a pram / push cart	
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk backwards a few steps	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kick ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot kick a ball

Fine motor

<input type="checkbox"/> Stack 2-3 blocks into a tower	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannot stack blocks
<input type="checkbox"/> Scribble with a pencil on paper	<input type="checkbox"/> No understanding of using a pencil

Talking and understanding

<input type="checkbox"/> Try to sing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Say 4-8 clear words	<input type="checkbox"/> No clear words
<input type="checkbox"/> Babble long sentences with some clear words	<input type="checkbox"/> No babbling
	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't try to interact using language
<input type="checkbox"/> Point to named pictures	
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow single instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't understand a single, short request, like 'Where is the ball?'
	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't know name

Social

<input type="checkbox"/> Start to show sense of self by saying words like 'no', 'mine'	
<input type="checkbox"/> Play games with other people	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to play alone rather than socially
<input type="checkbox"/> Manage to drink from a cup (half full)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in learning to feed self
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy sitting looking at books	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in books
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to body parts, clothing and objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in body parts, clothing and objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with dressing	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in dressing





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✓ An average child can...	✓ Signs of possible problems include...
Intellectual	
<input type="checkbox"/> Search for objects not only where they were last seen, but also in other places	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't search for objects out of view
<input type="checkbox"/> Play correctly with toys, such as pushing a car around, making an airplane fly	<input type="checkbox"/> Toy play is random – just banging, dropping, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete simple puzzles, like placing one or two shapes in holes	<input type="checkbox"/> No understanding of what to do with puzzles

If you have any concerns about your child's development, see your child health nurse or GP.

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