

WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR BABY

- childproof your home as much as possible, so your baby can experience freedom and the fun of being able to explore
- show your baby how to climb up and down stairs safely
- talk simply, clearly and slowly to your baby
- look at your child when he or she speaks to you, praise your child's efforts to speak
- talk about new places and experiences before you go, while you are there, and when you get home
- expand on what the child says. For example, if the child says, "dog" you say "big dog"
- ask questions that encourage your child to talk
- sit with your child to scribble with crayons, play with blocks, sing, read or look at books

AT 18 MONTHS YOUR BABY SHOULD:

- feed him/herself with a spoon (will still be messy)
- take off shoes, socks, hats
- show discomfort when he/she has a wet or dirty diaper

CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE OR DOCTOR IF:

- . . . by 18 months your baby:
 - is not walking
 - is not pointing to pictures
 - is not saying words other than mom or dad
 - does not respond when called
 - does not try to use some common objects (eg. spoon, fork, telephone, brush)

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT

YOUR DEVELOPING BABY

18 MONTHS



By 18 months, many children will be doing the things listed here. It is important to remember, however, that each child develops at his or her own rate.

At the end of the pamphlet you will find ways you can help your baby learn these new things.

LEARNING TO MOVE

At 18 months, your baby should:

- walk alone or with hands held
- walk while carrying a toy or pulling a toy behind
- begin to go downstairs backwards
- squat to pick up a toy from the floor and stand again

SEEING & USING HANDS

At 18 months, your baby should:

- enjoy picture books and begin to point to pictures
- scribble with a crayon/pencil
- build a tower of three blocks

HEARING, SPEECH & LANGUAGE

At 18 months, your baby should:

- turn to find sounds
- know sounds like a ringing telephone
- understand simple questions and directions (“Where is your nose?” and “Go get your coat”)
- use single words but may not pronounce them correctly
- use babbling that sounds like sentences
- ask for “more” or “again” using gestures and/or the words



LEARNING TO THINK & PLAY

At 18 months, your baby should:

- enjoy playing by him/herself
- imitate everyday activities e.g. talking on toy telephone
- actively explore environment
- push and pull large toys
- Begin to point to one or two point to some body parts on self or doll when asked
- enjoy nursery rhymes
- remember where objects belong

