

Age 18 Months - Developmental Milestones

At 18 months, children make strides in gross motor, fine motor, language, and social-cognitive development. They walk and climb independently, drink from a cup, and attempt to use a spoon, demonstrating physical and self-feeding skills. Fine motor abilities include scribbling and stacking blocks, while language advances as they start forming simple phrases and following commands. Socially, they imitate their caregivers' chores, engage in basic play, point to communicate, and display attachment by checking for caregivers when exploring, showing early independence and social learning.



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Gross Motor

Walks Independently

Walking Independence-day

By 18 months, a child typically demonstrates the ability to walk without holding onto furniture or another person's hand. This skill reflects the gross motor milestone of increased balance and coordination necessary for independent movement.

Climbs On/Off Furniture Without Help

Climbing on Furniture

At this age, children often show the ability to climb onto and off furniture, such as chairs or couches, on their own. This milestone indicates improving strength, spatial awareness, and confidence in gross motor skills.

Fine Motor

Drinks from Open Cup Independently

Drinking from Open Cup

An 18-month-old is generally able to hold and drink from an open cup with minimal spilling. This fine motor skill demonstrates progress in hand-eye coordination and control over wrist and finger movements.

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Scribbles

Scribbles

Children at this age typically enjoy making random marks or lines with a crayon or pencil. This early stage of drawing shows the development of hand dexterity and an introduction to pre-writing skills.

Eats with Fingers

Eats Finger Food

By 18 months, children usually feed themselves finger foods effectively, reflecting the development of coordination between their hands and mouth, as well as growing independence during meals.

Tries to Use a Spoon

Trying to Use Spoon

Although not yet perfect, children at this age begin attempting to scoop and bring food to their mouths using a spoon. This milestone highlights emerging fine motor control and self-help skills.

Stacks Three Blocks

(3) Tree and Blocks

At 18 months, children typically stack three blocks on top of one another, demonstrating their growing precision in hand movements, problem-solving abilities, and spatial awareness.



Language/Communication

Attempts Three-word Phrases

(3) Tree Word Speech-bubble

An 18-month-old may begin stringing three words together, such as "want more milk" or "go park now." These early phrases show the child's progress in combining vocabulary to express needs or observations.

Follows One-step Commands

Following (1) Wand Step Commander

At this stage, children can typically follow simple instructions, like "pick up the toy" or "come here." This milestone reflects advancements in receptive language and the ability to process and act on verbal cues.

Social / Cognitive

Checks While Moving Away

Checking Behind

Points to Objects

Pointing

By 18 months, children will point to items they find interesting or want, signaling their growing ability to communicate nonverbally and engage others in shared attention.

Engages With Toys Simply

Plays with Toys Simply

An 18-month-old typically plays with toys in straightforward ways, such as rolling a ball or stacking blocks, reflecting early problem-solving skills and the ability to explore the functionality of objects.

Copies Parent Doing Chores

Copies Parent's Chores

Children at this age often mimic simple household tasks they observe, such as wiping a table or sweeping with a small broom. This milestone demonstrates their growing cognitive ability to imitate and engage in role-play.

Extends Hands for Washing

Hands Out for Washing

By 18 months, children are able to cooperate with basic hygiene routines by extending their hands when prompted for washing. This milestone indicates developing social awareness and a willingness to participate in self-care tasks.