

Developmental Milestones: 12-15 months

It is important to know that each baby is unique and develops at his or her own pace. The developmental milestones listed below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect by the end of this period.

Social and Emotional Development

- Demonstrates a strong attachment to family members and to a few familiar people
- Displays a variety of emotions (i.e. distress, excitement, delight)
- May cry when mother or father leaves
- Shows specific preferences for certain people and objects (i.e. toys, special blankets, etc.)
- May become fearful in some situations
- Will initiate sounds or gestures for attention
- Extends arm or leg to help when being dressed
- May show more resistance to taking naps, eating certain foods, and begin to throw an occasional tantrum
- May start to show signs of having a sense of humor and enjoys making parents laugh

Play

- Shows increased interest in books and music
- Shows increased interest in simple pretend play
- Enjoys playing with cause-and-effect toys (i.e. pop-up toys, musical toys, etc)
- Continues to enjoy interacting with people in his/her play, especially with games like "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"
- Continues to show interest in and imitates everyday actions (i.e. shaving, putting on makeup, banging nails, using tools, etc.)

Cognitive (Thinking and Learning)

- May show stranger anxiety
- Finds objects even when hidden in complex places
- Delights in shaking, banging, throwing, and dropping objects
- Is able to look or point to the correct picture when a certain object/image is named
- Understands how to use objects correctly (drinking from cup, brushing hair, dialing phone, listening to receiver)
- Demonstrates the beginning of learning cause-effect relationship by repeating enjoyable actions

Language/Communication

- Recognizes own name
- Uses voice to express joy and displeasure
- Understands and responds to simple verbal requests such as "no"
- May attempt to communicate with a single syllable (i.e. "da" while pointing a finger means "I want that")
- Demonstrates understanding of a few simple words (i.e. "mama", "dada", "uh-oh" "dog", "ball")

Movement

- Crawls rapidly
- May walk on hands and knees
- May walk with or without assistance
- Stands alone
- Seats self on the floor

Hand and Finger Skills

- Holds objects between thumb and forefinger (pincer grasp)
- Enjoys banging two objects together
- Lets objects go voluntarily
- Pokes with index finger
- May attempt to scribble if given paper and a crayon
- Enjoys activities such as open cabinets, pulling books off of shelves, and pulling on tablecloths
- Turns over containers to pour out contents
- Manipulates blocks and/or Legos

Areas of Possible Concern 12-15 months

Although each baby develops in his or her individual way and at their own rate, failure to reach certain milestones may signal medical or developmental problems requiring special attention. If you notice any of the following warning signs in your child at this age, discuss them with your pediatrician.

- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people, including caregivers, often cringing, crying, resisting eye contact, or moving away from
- Seems sensitive to varying degrees of light and/or sound by closing eyes, crying, putting hands to ears, and looking or turning away
- Does not respond to his/her name when called
- Has poor eye contact
- No pretend play
- Shows no interest in other children
- Does not crawl
- Drags one side when crawling (for over one month)
- Cannot stand when supported
- Does not search for objects that are hidden even though he or she watched where the item was placed
- Does not say single words such as "mama" or "dada"
- Does not learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking head
- Doesn't seem to express much affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Does not point to objects or pictures
- Does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, fork, spoon)
- Does not like shaking, banging, throwing, and dropping objects
- Is unable to look or point to the correct picture when a certain object/image is named
- Doesn't seem to understand and/or respond to simple verbal requests
- Is not trying to communicate with single syllable
- Doesn't seem to understand even a few simple words
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Developmental Milestones: 15-18 months

It is important to know that each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace. The developmental milestones listed below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect at the end of this period.

Social and Emotional Development

- Actively explores everything
- Displays a variety of emotions (i.e. distress, excitement, delight)
- Demonstrates a strong attachment to family members and to a few familiar people
- May show more resistance to taking naps, eating certain foods, and begin to throw an occasional tantrum
- May start to show signs of having a sense of humor and enjoys making parents laugh

Play

- Enjoys throwing, rolling, pushing, and pulling toys
- Enjoys music and being read to
- Enjoys simple pretend play
- Enjoys playing with cause-and-effect toys (i.e. pop-up toys, musical toys, etc)
- Continues to enjoy interacting with people in his/her play, especially with games like "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"
- Continues to show interest in and imitates everyday actions (i.e. shaving, putting on makeup, banging nails, using tools, etc.)

Cognitive (Thinking and Learning)

- Stranger anxiety will peak and diminish at this point
- Finds objects even when hidden in complex places and may look in more than one place
- Delights in shaking, banging, throwing, and dropping objects
- Understands how to use objects correctly (drinking from cup, brushing hair, dialing phone, listening to receiver)
- Looks to parent for help in solving problems
- Demonstrates the beginning of learning cause-effect relationship by repeating enjoyable actions
- Begins to experiment through trial and error

Language/Communication

- Recognizes own name
- Uses voice to express joy and displeasure
- Understands and responds to simple verbal requests such as "no"
- Knows a few single words (i.e. "mama", "dada", "uh-oh" "dog", "ball")
- Points to object or picture when it's named for him
- Begins to recognize names of familiar people, objects, animals sounds, and body parts
- Follows simple instructions

Movement

- Seats self on the floor
- Stands unsupported
- Walks without assistance and with wide stance and outstretched arms
- Climbs stairs with assistance
- Begins to run
- Picks up objects from a standing position
- May try kicking a ball
- May attempt to climb onto and down from furniture with assistance

Hand and Finger Skills

- Is able to scribble if given a crayon
- Enjoys activities such as open cabinets, pulling books off of shelves, and pulling on tablecloths
- Turns over containers to pour out contents
- Refines grasping and holding things
- Continues exploring with various sized containers and contents
- Enjoys building with blocks and/or Legos

Areas of Possible Concern 15-18 months

Although each child develops in his or her individual way and at their own rate, failure to reach certain milestones may signal medical or developmental problems requiring special attention. If you notice any of the following warning signs in your child at this age, discuss them with your pediatrician.

- Seems sensitive to varying degrees of light and/or sound by closing eyes, crying, putting hands to ears, and looking or turning away
- Does not seem to respond to voices or sounds
- Has poor eye contact
- No pretend play
- Shows no interest in other children
- Prefers playing by self rather than with parent or another child
- Does not show or bring things to parents
- Does not search for objects that are hidden even though he or she watched where the item was placed
- Does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, fork, spoon)
- Does not crawl or walk
- Cannot stand when supported
- Does not search for easily hidden objects
- Does not say single words such as "mama" or "dada"
- Does not learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking head
- Doesn't seem to express much affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Does not respond when others call him/her by name
- Does not point to objects or pictures
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Developmental Milestones: 18-24 months

It is important to know that each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace. The developmental milestones listed below will give you a general idea of the changes you can expect at the end of this period.

Social and Emotional Development

- Actively explores everything
- Enjoys making parents laugh
- Shares experiences with parents by bringing/showing toys
- Imitates behavior of others, especially adults and older children
- Begins to show frustration or act out when misunderstood (i.e. grinding teeth, throwing self on the floor, crying etc.)
- May begin to resist bedtime
- The word "no" often becomes their favorite word
- Demonstrating more independence by feeding self, undressing self, etc.
- Enjoys playing with other children

Cognitive (Thinking and Learning)

- Delights in shaking, banging, throwing, and dropping objects
- Is able to look or point to the correct picture when a certain object/image is named
- Understands how to use objects correctly (drinking from cup, brushing hair, dialing phone, listening to receiver)
- Looks to parent for help in solving problems
- Demonstrates the beginning of learning cause-effect relationship by repeating enjoyable actions
- Enjoys learning and experimenting through trial and error
- Understands that something still exists even when it is hidden
- Begins to hold images of pictures and objects in their minds

Play

- Enjoys throwing, rolling, pushing, and pulling toys
- Enjoys music and being read to
- Enjoys simple pretend play
- Enjoys playing with cause-and-effect toys (i.e. pop-up toys, musical toys, etc)
- Continues to show interest in and imitates everyday actions (i.e. shaving, putting on makeup, banging nails, using tools, etc.)

Language/Communication

- Recognizes own name
- Uses voice to express joy and displeasure
- Understands and responds to simple verbal requests such as "no" and "bring me your book"
- Continues to recognize names of familiar people, objects, and body parts
- Vocabulary consists of several single words
- Begins to use phrases with two words (i.e. "me go" or "I want")

- Will repeat familiar and unfamiliar sounds and gestures

Movement

- Seats self on the floor
- Stands unsupported
- Climbs stairs with assistance
- Runs
- Is able to kick a ball
- Stands and walks competently, although sometimes awkwardly and may still fall a lot
- Is able to walk backward a short distance
- Continues to enjoy pushing and pulling toys while walking

Possible Areas of Concern 18-24 months

Although each child develops in his or her individual way and at their own rate, failure to reach certain milestones may signal medical or developmental problems requiring special attention. If you notice any of the following warning signs in your child at this age, discuss them with your pediatrician.

- Seems sensitive to varying degrees of light and/or sound by closing eyes, crying, putting hands to ears, and looking or turning away
- Has poor eye contact
- No pretend play
- Shows no interest in other children
- Prefers playing by self rather than with parent or another child
- Does not show or bring things to parents
- Does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, fork, spoon)
- Is unable to follow simple instructions
- Does not search for easily hidden objects
- Does not know many words
- Does not use gestures such as waving or shaking head
- Doesn't seem to express much affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Is not walking
- Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks only on his toes
- Does not seem to imitate actions or sounds
- Does not point to objects or pictures
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had