



# Developmental Milestones (12-18 months)

## Patient Factsheet

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### What is it?

GPs use milestones to track your child's development. Milestones are the skills and tasks children can do at different ages.

If your child is not meeting one or more milestones, there may be a cause for concern. See the developmental concerns in children factsheet for more information and supports.

#### DOMAIN

#### MILESTONE

#### NEEDS ASSESSMENT

##### Fine Motor



- Picks up small objects with the tip of thumb and index finger
- Holds onto pencils and crayons and tries to scribble
- Tries to build with blocks
- Tries to help when getting dressed e.g. takes off socks, holds up foot to put in shoe, push legs and arms through pants or shirt
- Feeds themselves with a spoon with some spills
- Drinks from cup (often spills drink)

##### Gross Motor



- 12 to 15 months:
- Walks with one hand held with flat feet
  - Climbs onto lounge / furniture
- 15 to 18 months:
- Walks for long distances by themselves
  - Walks on flat feet and squats down to play with flat feet
  - Turns around on the spot
  - Tries to kick a ball

##### Speech & Language



- Communication:
- Understands simple commands e.g. "give to mummy" used in every day routines
  - Understands more words than they say
  - Answers 'yes or no' and 'who or what or where' questions
  - Can say between four to 30 words but still uses some babble
  - Points to object when named
  - Uses simple words, gestures and facial expressions to make wants known e.g. "up" to be picked up.

##### Social Skills



- Shows two or more recognisable emotions e.g., fear, pleasure, distress
- Seeks contact with regular caregivers and protests or distresses when caregiver departs
- Smiles or vocalises to make social contact

##### Cognitive



- Searches for objects not only where last seen, but also in other places
- Plays correctly with toys such as pushing a car
- Completes simple puzzles, placing one or two shapes in holes



- Can't stack blocks
- No understanding of using a pencil

- Unable to stand alone or walk
- Unsteady or uneven gait / walking pattern
- Can't kick a ball

- No clear words
- No babbling
- Doesn't try to interact using language
- Can't understand a single, short request like "where is the ball?"
- Doesn't know names

- Prefers to play alone rather than socially
- Lack of interest in learning or books
- Lack of interest in body parts, clothing, objects, dressing
- No response to affection by caregivers

- Doesn't search for objects out of view
- Toy play is random e.g. just banging, dropping toys
- No understanding of what to do with puzzles

This information is to be viewed by someone who has received a diagnosis from their doctor. It is not designed to be used to diagnose a condition or as a substitute for ongoing medical care

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