

Milestones and Ideas - 18-24 Months

For Speech and Language Development

Milestones

- Beginning to put two words together (i.e. “more milk”)
- Points to pictures named in books and will begin to name some familiar items in pictures
- Understands 2-part sentences (i.e. “Get teddy and bring him to Daddy”)
- Points to people and body parts like eyes and nose
- Babbles using sentence-like intonation while talking to stuffed animals or self
- Imitates new words and phrases, e.g., “Go bye-bye” and “Mommy’s car”
- Parents understand 50-70% of what child says

Communication Ideas

Storybook Time

This is a good age to begin reading before bed. After brushing teeth and getting ready for bed, cuddle up and enjoy a favorite book. It is a very good habit to create and is soothing to read with the TV turned off. Maybe take turns reading with another member of the family or let another family member use this as their own special time to share with your toddler.

Sock Puppet Friend

Make a sock puppet from a clean sock. Make it talk. “Hi, I’m Buddy. What is your name? Let’s sing a song” Let your child interact with the puppet by talking to it or touching it. Keep the conversation going.

Tiny Town Talk

Use recyclables, containers and materials around the house to make a little town. Use boxes for houses and mark roads with masking tape. Use yogurt containers for tunnels. Use new words while your child plays with the little town.

Play with Others

When your child has a play date, be sure to stay close by. Your child will still need your help. Stay close by when he is with other children and praise them for playing well together. Try to have several trucks, cars, or dolls. Having a lot of one type of toy can help the children to cooperate as they are easier to share than one of each kind.

Play House

Create a little kitchen for your toddler. Use a dish pan for a sink put in warm water and plastic plates and cups. Draw burners on a box for a stove and cut out a door for the oven. Follow along with your child’s play. Talk about the different items and have fun.

Warning Signs: Does your child use more gestures than words?

Are you concerned about your child’s ability to talk and/or understand?

