

# Milestones and Ideas - 12-18 Months

For Speech and Language Development

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## Milestones

- Understands simple questions and statements without gestures (i.e. “Where is your mouth?” “Show me...” “Go get...”)
- Starts to use 10 - 20 words (may not all be clear)
- Imitates animal sounds and some words
- Imitates new words spontaneously
- Parents understand 25% of what child says

## Communication Ideas

### What’s that Sound

Find three things that make noise, such as a bell, a set of keys, and a rattle. Let baby play with them for a while. Then hide the items under a cloth or tea towel and make a noise with one. Take the cloth off and ask baby, “Which one made the noise?” See if she can guess.

### A Quiet Moment

Take a quiet moment to talk to your baby. Turn off distractions like TV or radio. Talk to your baby about what you’re doing or about what baby is doing. Encourage your baby when he responds. Let your baby hear your voice and see your face making words.

### A Little Helping Hand

Praise and encourage your baby for being a helper! Your baby can help do small jobs like picking up toys, wiping the table with a sponge, or stirring cake batter (with help). Your baby will enjoy the activity. He will also enjoy doing something special for you.

### Bath Time

When giving your baby a bath, let your baby bathe a small plastic doll. Teach him to be loving, by showing your baby how to be gentle with the doll. After, let baby dry and hug the doll.

### Animal Noises

Teach your toddler animal sounds. Make the sounds of different animals and read books about baby animals. Later, create lots of fun by pretending your toddler is the baby animal and you are the animal’s parent. Be silly and call to each other with animal sounds.

**Warning Signs:** Does your child not talk at all?  
Is your child sociable?

