

Developmental Milestones

Babies are fun. They make dramatic changes very quickly. Knowing what to expect is useful in selecting activities and toys that are appropriate to your child's developmental age. However, a preemie's age must be corrected to when the child should have been born. There is a lot of room for individual variation, so relax and enjoy! Here are some guidelines for the average baby.

Age range: 15-18 months

Language:

Baby Can:

Expressive Language: The baby can jargon, like talking a "foreign language". Baby can speak up to ten words and may use two word phrases. She/he can vocalize wants and identify several body parts. She/he can name simple objects.

You Can:

Label items that the baby is exposed to. Play games such as "where's your ____" to learn body parts or "where's the ____" to learn object names.

Baby Can:

Receptive Language: He/she can follow simple commands. The baby can anticipate the appearance of an object that is hidden.

You Can:

Read lots of stories to the baby. Play simple games such as hide and seek.

Baby Can:

Social skills: The child can "baby" a doll or a stuffed toy. He/she can play appropriately with a toy telephone. He/she can imitate household chores in a much more elaborate way.

You Can:

Help baby develop all these play skills.

Baby Can:

Fine Motor: Child can stack three to four blocks and place rings on a cone. He/she can begin to turn pages singly. Feeding skills are improving. He/she begins to use a spoon and can get cup to mouth spilling only a little.

You Can:

Encourage fine motor dexterity, working with crayons and pencils to draw. You can play feeding games to encourage utensil use.

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Baby Can:

Gross Motor: Your child is walking more smoothly and may begin to run. Maneuvering on stairs in the standing position begins with support from a rail or someone's hand. Your child is beginning to zip but cannot start it. Rolling a ball and awaiting its return brings great joy at this stage.

You Can:

Practice putting on and taking off clothing. Snaps and zippers will be fun to play with. Practice ball throwing and fetching.

*A note on language: If no words are recognizable by 18 months, please consult your physician. A hearing evaluation may be in order.

*A note on bowel and bladder control: Longer dry periods will be developing during the day at this time, but your child is not yet ready for toilet training.