

AGES & STAGES

18–24 months



Welcome to the world of toddlerhood! This stage brings a greater sense of independence to your child as he or she learns to walk, run, and climb with greater skill. Your little one now loves to imitate everything you do. Pretending to talk on the phone is a favorite activity.

18–24 MONTHS

Growing and Moving

WEIGHT: 20-32 pounds

LENGTH: 30-37 inches

- walks well
- likes to run, but can't always stop and turn well
- drinks from a straw
- feeds self with a spoon
- helps wash hands
- stacks 4-6 blocks
- tosses or rolls a large ball
- opens cabinets, drawers, and boxes
- bends over to pick up toy without falling
- walks up steps with help
- takes steps backward
- enjoys sitting on, and moving small-wheeled riding toys
- begins to gain some control of bowels and bladder; complete control may not be achieved until around age 3 (*boys often do not complete toilet learning until age 3 1/2*)

Thinking, Learning, and Talking

- has a vocabulary of several hundred words, including names of a few toys
- uses two to three word sentences
- echoes single words that are spoken by someone else
- talks to self and "jabbers" expressively
- has "favorite" toys
- likes to choose between two objects
- hums or tries to sing
- listens to short rhymes or fingerplays
- points to eyes, ears, or nose when asked
- uses the words "please" and "thank you" if prompted, but doesn't fully understand their meaning
- enjoys singing familiar songs



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TOYS



Toys

- pegboard and large pegs
- pounding bench
- shape sorter
- snap and lock beads
- ring stack
- large beads to string
- nesting cups
- large, soft, huggable dolls and teddy bear
- soft balls of different sizes
- large crayons and paper
- push cart
- riding toys (non-motorized)
- toy telephone

Feeling and Relating

- likes to imitate others
- begins to show signs of independence; says “no”
- has difficulty sharing
- very possessive
- finds it difficult to wait and wants it right now!
- gets angry sometimes and has temper tantrums
- acts shy around strangers
- comforts a distressed friend or parent
- refers to self by name
- uses the words “me” and “mine”
- enjoys looking at picture books
- tries to do many things alone
- enjoys adult attention
- enjoys pretending (wearing hats, talking on phone)
- enjoys exploring; gets into everything, and requires constant supervision
- generally unable to remember rules
- often gets physically aggressive when frustrated—slaps, hits
- shows affection by returning a hug or kiss
- may become attached to a toy or blanket

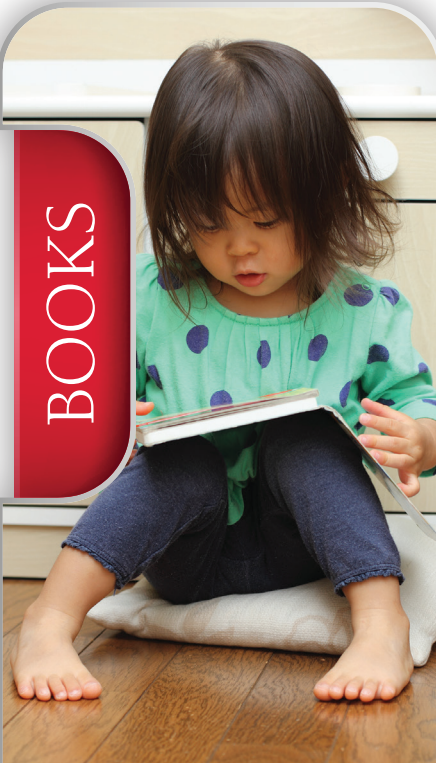
LET’S TALK!

Ideas to help children build communication skills

Add new words to everyday language. Encourage language by adding new words to your child’s sentences. “Yes, that is a kitty.” “The kitty is little and soft.” “Listen to it purr.”



BOOKS



Books for Children

Baby Animals
Roger Priddy

Doggies
Sandra Boynton

Fifteen Animals
Sandra Boynton

First 100 Words
Roger Priddy

Goodnight Moon
Margret Wise Brown

How Do I Love You?
Marion Dane Bauer

If Animals Kissed Good Night
Ann Whitford Paul and David Walker

Time for Bed
Mem Fox and Jane Dyer

Trucks
Byron Barton

Where are Maisy's Friends?
Lucy Cousins

IDEAS FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Enjoy dancing with your child to music with different rhythms.
- Talk with your child about everyday things. After 18 months, he or she will learn new words at a rapid rate.
- Read simple books with your child every day. Choose books with cardboard or cloth pages and encourage your child to turn pages.
- Make your own scrap book of objects or people he or she knows by using a small photo album.
- Play a simple game of "find." Place three familiar toys in front of your child and say, "Give me the ____." See if he or she tries to find it and hand it to you.
- Encourage your child to play dress-up by providing a full-length mirror on the wall and a "pretend box" filled with caps, hats, and old shoes.



A Word on Development

Every child is unique. Each child's learning and growth rates may differ slightly from other children the same age. If, however, you notice a child is unable to do many of the skills listed for his or her age group, you may wish to talk with a health professional. In Iowa, you may request a free evaluation and assessment from **Early ACCESS** at 1-888-425-4371. www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/early-access-iowa

If your child has special needs, early help can make a difference.

Resources

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

- Human Sciences www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences
- Extension Store store.extension.iastate.edu

Search "Ages and Stages" for information about specific development milestones.

The developmental information provided in this bulletin has been combined from a variety of professional resources to help you understand your child's overall growth. It is not a standardized measurement tool.

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Ages & Stages 18-24 months is available online at: store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/5022.

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