

Speech and Language Milestones

12 to 18 Months



From 12 to 18 months, your child:

- shows you objects when you name them
- shows you a few simple body parts - like nose, tummy, foot
- says from 5 to 10 “real” words, although they may not be clear
- says words like “more”, “mine”, “bye”
- says many sounds together in a “sentence” that you may not understand
- repeats words and actions of other people
- may not speak clearly
- shows you he/she doesn’t want something by saying “no”, shaking his/her head, moving away, or frowning
- makes sounds and points to objects that he/she wants
- plays alone or watches other people play

How you can help your child's speech and language grow:

- show new objects and toys to your child - talk about what you and your child are doing - use short sentences
- play with your child using the toys he/she likes
- read lots of books together, but don’t worry about reading all the words - talk about what your child is interested in
- pay attention to what your child is saying instead of how he/she is saying it - his/her speech won’t be clear yet
- don’t just get what your child wants; wait for your child to ask
- if your child doesn’t say a word properly, repeat it the right way without correcting him
- don’t use “baby talk” - use real words
- use words to label objects, actions and describe how things look, feel, taste and sound

Adapted with permission from material developed by First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program of Ottawa-Carleton led by Pinecrest-Queensway Health and Community Services.

Parents, trust your instincts and call us if you

- have questions or concerns about the way your child’s speech and language skills are developing
- want to refer your child for a speech and language assessment
- want more information on other topics related to speech and language development



**DON'T WAIT
EARLY HELP MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!**

Call 519-272-8216 or 1-866-333-7716
and ask for **smallTALK**

Visit our web site at www.smalltalkinfo.ca

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