

# 13-18 Months

## *The Development of Language and Conceptual Abilities in Children*

<b>What the typical child might say and do:</b>	<b>What the typical child knows or thinks:</b>	<b>What you should say or do:</b>	<b>Cautions:</b>
<p>Says about 22 words by 18 months</p> <p>Increases use of gesturing for communicating (pointing, waving, etc.)</p> <p>May use words to express needs (says “up” to be held, etc.)</p> <p>Enjoys pointing at pictures and objects and likes hearing them named</p> <p>May overextend word meanings (calls all adult men “da-da,” etc.)</p>	<p>Uses expressive information from mother’s face to guide own behaviors</p> <p>Enjoys songs, rhymes, and simple games</p> <p>Knows that words represent objects that can be acted upon</p> <p>May obey simple commands (“Come here,” “Don’t touch!” etc.)</p>	<p>Approach the child slowly.</p> <p>Expect the child to be shy and possibly afraid.</p> <p>If child is toddling, get down on the floor at his/her level.</p> <p>Give the child time and space to explore you (touch your earrings or the buttons of your shirt, etc.)</p> <p>Make simple statements. (“You are wearing a blue shirt today.”)</p>	<p>Don’t startle or surprise baby with sudden movements.</p> <p>Don’t expect a toddler to provide you with specific, reliable information.</p> <p>Begin by connecting with the child, and then proceed to assess developmental status through observation and interaction; don’t attempt to “interview” in the traditional manner.</p>

### **Indicators of possible developmental problems:**

Doesn’t talk, or uses only a few words

Repeats sounds noncommunicatively, e.g., barking, screeching

Doesn’t respond to own name

Doesn’t respond to simple requests