

18-24 Months

The Development of Language and Conceptual Abilities in Children

What the typical child might say and do:	What the typical child knows or thinks:	What you should say or do:	Cautions:
<p>Has a vocabulary of 272 words (on average) by age 2</p> <p>May express frustration or anger through the use of words or may resort to screams and tears</p> <p>Combines words to create simple sentences ("All gone!" "Go bye-bye?")</p> <p>Imitates words and gestures</p> <p>Knows (and works with!) the word "no"</p>	<p>Experiences a language acquisition explosion, with some children learning up to 12 new words a day</p> <p>Knows the names of own body parts and clothing items; identifies common animals and the sounds they make</p> <p>Knows that everything has a name</p> <p>May follow simple directions (but still has a fleeting attention span)</p> <p>Knows own name and the names of family members</p>	<p>Speak slowly and give the child enough time to respond.</p> <p>Talk about objects that are familiar to the child. ("Is this your dolly?")</p> <p>Listen patiently.</p> <p>Approach the child on his/her own level.</p>	<p>Don't pressure the child to speak. (Stranger anxiety usually peaks around 17 months but may last until nearly the second birthday.)</p> <p>Don't rush into the child's space.</p> <p>Do not expect the child to give you much (if any) reliable information, since the use of memory is still a new and shaky skill.</p>

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Indicators of possible developmental problems:
Stops talking
Doesn't develop use of gestures
Doesn't talk, or uses only a few words
Doesn't respond when addressed by name