

# Child development

## 18 months

### What you can do to help your child's development

- Give your child the chance to play with other children.
- Talk, listen and respond to your child.
- Read and sing with your child.
- Encourage everyday skills like using spoons and taking off hats.
- Stay nearby while your child plays and explores.
- Make sure your child has their routine health checks.

### When to seek professional help at 18 months

Your child:

- doesn't use single words or gestures like pointing or waving
- can't follow simple instructions
- doesn't enjoy eye contact or cuddles or isn't showing their emotions
- isn't walking on their own
- uses one hand much more than the other.

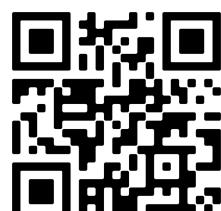


If you're worried about your child's development or your child has lost skills they had before, talk to your child and family health nurse or GP.



[raisingchildren.net.au](https://raisingchildren.net.au)

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18 m/o development