

13 to 18 Months: What to Expect

Speech and language milestones for this age, plus the signs that are worth a call to a speech-language pathologist.

AGE

13-18 months

What to expect

- Looks around when asked "where" questions, like "where is your blanket?"
- Follows directions - "give me the ball", "hug the teddy bear", "come here", "show me your nose"
- Points to make requests, to comment, or to get information
- Shakes their head for no and nods for yes
- Understands and uses words for common objects, some actions, and the people in their life
- Identifies one or more body parts
- Uses gestures when excited, like clapping or a high-five, or when being silly
- Combines long strings of sounds, syllables and real words with speech-like inflection

Worth a Conversation

- ! No words at all by 18 months
- ! Does not point to request or to show you things
- ! Does not follow simple one-step directions
- ! Loses words or skills they previously had

You never need a referral to ask a speech-language pathologist for an evaluation, and you never need to wait and see. If you are wondering whether to call, that is reason enough.