



## 18 Month Checkup - Speech and Language Development

The **healthcare professional's role** is vital in identifying children with speech and language difficulties. One in every two **late talkers** will not catch up without help. The sooner young children are referred, the sooner we can help the child and his/her family to promote communication skills. We want to identify children at risk **before** their second birthday. You can help by looking for speech and language predictors.

Use of **toys/objects** and **understanding of language** are strong predictors of development. The best predictor of communication at **12 months** is pointing for shared attention (e.g., infant points to a toy and looks to parent as though asking the parent to join him in play). The best predictor of verbal communication at **two years** of age is consonant production (e.g., use of sounds and syllables like ma, na, ba, ga, wa, la, ya, sa, sha).

### Does the 18-month old child: Communication Skills

Yes No

- point to show you something?
- look at you when you are talking or playing together?
- look for your attention by showing you things, greeting you or asking for something?
- look to where someone else is looking?
- hear and show response when you speak to her (looks or turns toward you when you call her name)?
- point to common objects?

### Expressive Speech Skills

Yes No

- use sounds or words to get your attention or help?
- string sounds together, such as uh oh, gaga, bye bye?
- make at least 4 consonant sounds like /m/, /n/, /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/?
- imitate words you say?
- use at least 20 words consistently?

### Symbolic Skills

Yes No

- follow simple directions ("Give mommy the cup")?
- point to several body parts when asked?
- recognize the names of family members and familiar objects?
- understand the concepts of "in and out", "off and on"?
- stack 3 or more blocks?
- pretend to play with toys (gives teddy a drink, pretends a bowl is a hat)?
- understand a good variety of words and phrases ("Find the book", "Get the ball")?
- use a wide variety of toys as they are intended to be used (cup, bottle, spoon, comb, toothbrush, washcloth, ball, toy telephone, toy vehicle)?
- enjoy being read to and looks at simple books with you?

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If you answer "no" to any of these questions, please contact:  
Early Expressions Preschool Speech and Language Services at 613-546-3854 or 1-800-267-7875  
to make a referral.