



Milestones Matter

Your Child at 13 to 18 Months

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves offers important clues about his or her development.

Your Child's Communication

- Looks around when asked “where” questions. For example, “Where is your blanket?”
- Follows directions such as “Give me the ball,” “Hug the teddy bear,” “Come here” or “Show me your nose.”
- Points to make requests, to comment or to get information.
- Shakes head for “no” and nods head for “yes.”
- Uses words for common objects, some actions and people in their life.
- Identifies one or more body parts.
- Uses gestures when excited, like clapping or giving a high-five, or when being silly, like sticking out their tongue or making funny faces.
- Uses a combination of long strings of sounds, syllables and real words with speech-like inflection.

Each child develops uniquely, even within the same family, and may meet certain milestones earlier or later than others. If your child does not meet many of the milestones within their age range, or if you have any concerns about your child's hearing or development, it is important to act early. It can make a big difference!

It's also important to note that the communication (hearing, speech and language) milestones and cutoffs are for American English speakers. Speech-language development for children who speak languages outside of spoken American English may follow a different sequence or have different rates of mastery by age range.

This information was adapted with permission from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association communication milestones: asha.org/public/developmental-milestones/communication-milestones

You Can Help Your Child Learn and Grow Here are some activities to enjoy with your child.

- **Talk about sounds around your house.** Listen to the clock tick and say “t-t-t.” Make car or plane sounds like “v-v-v.”
- **Play with sounds at bath time.** Blow bubbles and make the sound “b-b-b-b.” Pop bubbles and make a “p-p-p-p” sound.
- **Talk to your child as you do things and go places.** For example, when taking a walk, point to and name what you see. Say things like “I see a dog. The dog says ‘woof.’ This is a big dog. This dog is brown.”
- **Give your child two-step directions** like “Get the ball and put it in the box.”
- **Use short words and sentences that your child can repeat. Add to words your child says.** For example, if they say “car,” you can say “You’re right! That is a big red car.”
- **Tell stories or read to your child every day.** Try to find books with large pictures and a few words on each page. Talk about the pictures on each page or things you see around you.
- **Have your child point to pictures, body parts or objects that you name.**
- **Ask your child to name pictures.** They may not answer at first. Just name the pictures for them. One day, they will surprise you by telling you the name.
- **Talk to your child in the languages** you are most comfortable using. If your family is multilingual, give your child many chances to hear and practice your languages daily. Learning multiple languages will not cause speech or language problems.

If you have concerns, you can talk to your child's pediatrician, schedule a clinical evaluation or call your child's school district. You can also use ASHA ProFind (asha.org/profind) to find an ASHA-certified audiologist (asha.org/public/who-are-audiologists) or speech-language pathologist (asha.org/public/who-are-speech-language-pathologists) for an assessment.

For children 1 year (12 months) of age and up, you can also sign up for a free online or in-person speech, language and hearing screening with a speech-language pathologist from Boys Town National Research Hospital by emailing screenings@boystown.org or calling 531-355-5605. For more information visit bit.ly/hearing-language-screening.

Clinical Evaluations

Audiology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric hearing evaluations. Please call 531-355-6520 for appointments.

Boys Town National Research Hospital - Downtown
555 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68131

Boys Town National Research Hospital - West
14040 Hospital Rd., Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Council Bluffs Clinic
320 McKenzie Ave., Suite 202, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Speech-Language Pathology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric speech-language evaluations and therapy. Call 531-355-5087 for appointments.

Boys Town National Research Hospital - Downtown
555 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68131

Boys Town Speech-Language Clinic
14015 Flanagan Blvd., Suite 101, Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Pediatrics - Maple Street Clinic
3838 N. 167th Court, Omaha, NE 68116

Behavioral Health: Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health offers services for children with behavioral or social-emotional concerns. Call 531-355-3358 for appointments.

Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health
13460 Walsh Dr., Boys Town, NE 68010

Educational Evaluations

Your child may qualify for a free assessment through the school district in which you reside, some of which are listed below. For more information, you can also contact Nebraska ChildFind at 1-888-806-6287.

Ashland-Greenwood
Public Schools
402-944-7083

Bellevue Public Schools
402-293-4000

Bennington Public Schools
402-238-3044

Blair Community Schools
402-426-2610

DC West Community Schools
402-359-2583

Elkhorn Public Schools
402-289-2579 ext. 11000

Fremont Public Schools
402-727-3084

Gretna Public Schools
402-332-3265

Millard Public Schools
402-715-8302

Omaha Public Schools
531-299-0242

Papillion-La Vista
Community Schools
402-514-3243

Ralston Public Schools
402-331-4700

Westside Community Schools
402-390-2100

Yutan Public Schools
402-625-2141