

## Speech and Language Milestones 18-24 months

---

Kathleen Holman, M.A., CCC-SLP

Speech, Language, and Feeding Early Intervention

Between 18 and 24 months, many children begin to:

- use words more frequently than jargon
- use 50 to 100 different words (expressive vocabulary)
- understand about 300 words (receptive vocabulary)
- combine nouns and verbs
- use pronouns
- use rising intonation for questions
- answer 'what's that' questions
- recognize family members' names and name of self
- develop a wider variety of consonants in words

General Ways to encourage this development at home:

- ✚ Requiring your child to use language to make requests, either via signing (such as the signs “I want” or “more”) or verbal requests (“milk,” etc.)
- ✚ Using fun, predictable, and repetitive phrases during games, and books, that your child can anticipate and chime in (“1,2,3, weeee!” “Ready, set, go!”, “March! March! March!”, “Dance! Dance! Dance!” etc.) You can choose your own phrases. A fun, exaggerated tone of voice is most likely to engage the child.
- ✚ Label everything you do – and label it repetitively. Example: “Look! Mommy is cooking. Cook! Cook! Cook! Mommy is cooking eggs. Mmm eggs. Cook Eggs. Cook! Cook!”

## Speech and Language Milestones 18-24 months

---

- ✚ As you and your child engage in actions, attach a word to the action you are doing. For each step you climb on the stairs, say “up!”. As you descend – “down!” Change your tone of voice to make this naming fun and exciting for your child to try to imitate.
- ✚ Take turns communicating with your child. If your child is babbling to you, listen. Applaud their “good talking” and respond.
- ✚ Sing childhood nursery songs together. These are also repetitive and predictable, which may help your child be inclined to pick up some words in song.
- ✚ Create situations that require your child to use language to make requests. Put desirable objects in Tupperware containers, so your child has to ask you to “open” either through sign or verbal speech, put some objects out of your child’s reach, so they have to ask for them.