

These are a list of skills your child may develop by the end of 18 months

### Communication Skills

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- Points to pictures you name
- Can point to basic body parts and clothing items
- Finds familiar objects not in sight
- Says 4-6 simple words
- Uses words and gestures to meet needs/wants
- Asks for “more”

### Fine Motor Skills

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- Holds crayon with whole hand, thumb up
- Turns knobs
- Turns pages in a book, a few at a time
- Carries objects in both hands, likes to try to carry large objects

### Gross Motor Skills

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- Loves to climb stairs, on furniture, out of crib
- Throws a ball forward
- Can run a little and learning to walk backwards

### Personal Social Skills

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- Likes lots of attention, easily entertained
- Can be self-centered and often not friendly
- Can recognize self in mirror or photograph
- Expresses negative emotions (anger)
- Is becoming more social with others

### Problem Solving Skills

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- Likes to take things apart
- Tries a number of things to activate toy; turns, bangs, pushes buttons
- Completes simple 2-3 large piece puzzles
- Attention span is short—child will stay with activities for brief periods of time
- Helping with routine activities is increasing

### Communication Activities

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- Repeat words your child says and add a little extra
- Listen to what your child is trying to say, treat what he/she says as an attempt to communicate
- Name items of clothing as you dress your child
- Make a word book with pictures of familiar people/items

### Fine Motor Activities

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- Use empty food boxes as blocks to stack, you can fill with paper and tape shut to make sturdy
- Provide blank drawing paper to explore with various sizes of crayons, pens, markers, and paints
- Make instant pudding together, allowing child to dump and pour, can be eaten and used for finger painting
- Teach blowing bubbles and popping with fingers
- Use a wide paint brush and a bowl of water to “paint” house, fence, porch

### Gross Motor Activities

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- Playground equipment is a great opportunity to practice and develop large muscles
- With your help, practice walking up and down steps
- Make your own bowling game using empty bottles and tennis balls
- Practice jumping up, getting both feet off the floor
- Provide laundry baskets and balls to throw ball into

### Personal Social and Problem Solving Activities

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- Trips to parks are good ways to begin practicing interacting with other children
- Playing “dress up” with clothes gives practice for dressing and undressing self
- Provide a variety of toys that require child to cause an action
- Encourage play with puzzles, may prefer the puzzles with knobs which are easier to grip
- Play “pretend” with a stuffed animal or doll, take turns feeding, rocking