

AGE 18 TO 24 MONTHS

INTRODUCTION	
VISUALS / ONSCREEN TEXT	VOICE OVER
<p><i>INTRO</i></p>	<p>When it comes to speech and language, the first five years of life are filled with excitement. The communication skills your child develops during this time will have a major impact on your child's experiences throughout his or her life... at school, in relationships, at work, and in day to day life. And as a parent, there's a great deal you can do to help support your child's language development.</p> <p>But how do you know if your child's communication skills are developing on track? The first step is to know what your child should be able to do at each stage... each of these accomplishments is called a milestone.</p> <p>Think of every milestone as being built on building blocks. After each milestone is reached... the foundation is laid for the next one. The more blocks you have, the more solid your structure.</p> <p>This program will demonstrate some of the communication milestones your child should be reaching at about this age. It will also show you how to give your child the Building Blocks needed to help him or her reach those milestones.</p>
MILESTONES: 18 TO 24 MONTHS	
VISUALS / ONSCREEN TEXT	VOICE OVER
<p>Milestones 18 to 24 months</p> <p>Uses 50-250 words and combines 2 words.</p> <p>Names some pictures in a book.</p> <p>Uses a variety of words.</p> <p>Uses pronouns like "me, mine, my, you".</p>	<p>By 18 to 24 months of age, your child's vocabulary and communication skills are rapidly expanding. He's learned more words and is beginning to put them together to make short sentences! With the help of Aiden and Ashlyn, let's review some of the milestones your child should be reaching at this age.</p> <p>Uses 50-250 words and combines 2 words. For example "more juice" or "want truck". In this clip, Aiden says "chocolate milk".</p> <p>Names some pictures in a book.</p> <p>Uses a variety of words. In this clip, Aiden uses the nouns "baby" and "milk", the pronoun "my", the verbs "cry" and "drink", and the preposition "out".</p> <p>Uses pronouns like "me, mine, my, you".</p>

<p>Takes turns in a conversation.</p> <p>Uses negative forms such as “not” and “no” with another word.</p> <p>Asks “What’s that?” and “Where?”</p> <p><i>Bulleted list:</i></p> <p>Speak to your healthcare provider if your toddler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses more gestures than words • only plays with one toy, or only in one way • doesn’t make eye contact • prefers to play alone • is difficult to understand • has repeated ear infections • or if you have any other concerns about your child’s development 	<p>Takes turns in a conversation.</p> <p>Uses negative forms such as “not” and “no” with another word.</p> <p>Asks “What’s that?” and “Where?”</p> <p>These are some of the milestones your toddler should be reaching by his second birthday, but it’s important to remember that every child is unique and will reach milestones at his or her own pace.</p> <p>However, some children have difficulty developing normal speech and language skills, and may need extra help from a specialist. It’s important for these children to get help early to prevent more problems later on, and so that they can reach their fullest potential. Be sure to speak with your healthcare provider if your toddler uses more gestures than words...only plays with one toy, or in only one way... doesn’t make eye contact... always prefers to play alone... is difficult to understand... has repeated ear infections... or if you have any other concerns about your child’s development.</p> <p>Now let’s look at some important ways that you as a parent can help your child continue to build his language skills...</p>
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BUILDING BLOCKS: 18 TO 24 MONTHS

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<p>Building Blocks 18 to 24 months</p>	<p>At this age, your child is like a sponge, soaking up everything that you say and trying to imitate it. More than ever, you play an important role in modelling how language works and the correct way to say things. By continuing to have conversations with your toddler about what you’re both doing, seeing, hearing or feeling while you spend time together, you’re providing him with the building blocks he needs to become a great communicator! Here are some simple tips...</p>
<p><i>BUILDING BLOCK</i> Talk slowly, clearly and simply with your child, using short sentences.</p>	<p>Short, simple sentences with between one and four words are easier for your child to imitate. When you talk slowly and clearly, you can make important words stand out. Watch how Aiden and Ashlyn imitate their mom’s clear and simple words here...</p>
<p><i>BUILDING BLOCK</i> Add to the words your child uses.</p>	<p>When your toddler says something, expand on what he’s said by adding details with a word or two. This helps build your child’s understanding of the world, and his vocabulary to describe it. It</p>

	also helps him to begin putting single words together into simple phrases... which will eventually lead to sentences!
BUILDING BLOCK Talk about what your child is doing while he is doing it.	Talking to your child about what he's doing while he's doing it, or what he's interested in at the moment, helps bring words to life for him. You're giving him the vocabulary to describe his interests, as well as modelling how sentences are made and how things happen in an order. These are skills that will help him tell stories or describe events himself someday.
BUILDING BLOCK Find opportunities to use words like "my", "your", "his", "her", "their".	Activities like sorting laundry or setting the table offer a good opportunity to use words that describe one's own belongings vs. another person's belongings. It's important to talk in the first person. In other words, say "my" not "Mommy's". Watch how Aiden and Ashlyn are pretending to make lunch, and mom shows them how to use words that describe what belongs to whom. (<i>clip</i>) Did you notice how mom said " <u>my</u> cup", not "mommy's cup"? And " <u>your</u> cup", not "Aiden's cup"?
BUILDING BLOCK Talk about people and pictures in photo albums or books.	Looking at photo albums or picture books together and talking about the people or animals in them is a great way to bring books to life for your child. When you're looking at a book together, describe the actions of the people in the pictures, using pronouns like "he", "she", "you", "me", or "they". Be sure to also name and talk about interesting objects in the pictures. By doing this, you're turning book reading into a conversation, and you're helping prepare your child to someday tell stories himself. The best books for this age are ones that are repetitive, with fun words, colourful images and predictable elements to the story. Popular books are often those with real-life themes like bedtime or bath time, or a visit to a farm or zoo.
CONCLUSION	
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EXTRO	<p>In this program, we've reviewed some of the milestones your child should reach at about this age, and some simple ways that you can support his or her growing communication skills.</p> <p>You're encouraged to return to this resource at each step of your child's development. And remember: if at any stage you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, don't hesitate to talk to your healthcare provider. By using the simple tips we've discussed in this program, and by getting help for any communication problems early, you can help pave the way for your child's future success!</p>