

Emotional Development

Your Baby at 13 to 18 Months

Typical Emotional Skills

- Is more confident, exploring new things and taking risks when a trusted adult is present
- Identifies self in mirror or photograph; becomes more of an individual
- Hugs and kisses parents and other very familiar people and pets

Emerging Emotional Skills

- Shows jealousy when attention is given to other family members
- Shows frustration easily
- Displays a sense of ownership over toys and people

Comfort

If you do this:

- Encourage your child to safely explore his surroundings (e.g., cupboards)
- Give your child opportunities to feel successful (e.g., play a game that he has initiated)

Your baby will:

- Explore his environment in a self-directed way
- Develop a sense of competence and feel that he can influence others

Play

If you do this:

- Use stories, songs or toys (e.g., teddy bears) to explore feelings
- Provide opportunities for your child to play on her own

Your baby will:

- Express emotion in response to what she sees or hears
- Learn to be self-reliant for small periods of time

Teach

If you do this:

- Teach your child simple words to express his feelings (e.g., "I'm sad.")
- Inform him when a routine will be different and what will be happening

Your baby will:

- Learn to connect words to how he feels
- Become better prepared to deal with any changes and experience less anxiety

Social Development

Your Baby at 13 to 18 Months

Typical Social Skills

- Begins to show sense of humour
- Plays best on her own; doesn't want to share toys with others, shouting, "Mine, mine!"
- Enjoys imitating adult tasks such as dusting, sweeping floors, setting the table

Emerging Social Skills

- May be able to cooperate at times but may not respond quickly or will do the opposite of the request
- Plays alongside another child
- Tries to dress/undress himself (e.g., pull up pants, undo Velcro shoe fasteners)

Comfort

If you do this:

- Have good-bye routines for when you and family members leave
- Invite your child to join in some daily chores

Your baby will:

- Be comforted by routines which mean that people always return
- Enjoy imitating adult tasks; feel a sense of independence

Play

If you do this:

- Create time for your child to play with others her age
- Provide pretend-play props like a doll and bottle

Your baby will:

- Begin to learn the give and take that comes with being in a social group
- Recreate familiar actions she has experienced herself

Teach

If you do this:

- Share a toy with your child, taking turns with it
- Use "Yes" and "No" to clearly set limits and explain why; always respond warmly

Your baby will:

- Begin to learn what's expected when he plays with others
- Begin to understand what actions are acceptable or not acceptable

Fine Motor Development

Your Baby at 13 to 18 Months

Typical Fine Motor Skills

- Turns pages of a book
- Stacks three or more blocks
- Feeds self with spoon and fork

Emerging Fine Motor Skills

- Begins to unlatch, unscrew, open and take apart
- Squeezes, pokes, and pats playdough
- Copies simple lines drawn on paper

Comfort

If you do this:

- Allow your child to feed himself finger foods at meal times
- Spend time reading picture books with your child

Your baby will:

- Practice self-help skills and be proud of newly emerging abilities
- Use the small muscles in his fingers to turn the pages

Play

If you do this:

- Offer your child plastic bowls she can either stack or put one inside the other
- Provide big crayons and lots of paper

Your baby will:

- Test out how things fit together
- Experiment with scribbling and the patterns and colours that emerge

Teach

If you do this:

- Provide pots and lids to encourage finding matching sets
- Help your child to solve a simple jigsaw puzzle with a few large pieces

Your baby will:

- Enjoy making noise with the pots and lids while beginning to appreciate different sizes of objects
- Explore how things fit together using his new fine motor abilities

Gross Motor Development

Your Baby at 13 to 18 Months

Typical Gross Motor Skills

- Walks alone
- Crawls or walks upstairs one step at a time holding onto banister or hand
- Climbs on things by himself (e.g., chairs, sofas, tables or out of cribs)

Emerging Gross Motor Skills

- Tries to kick a ball
- Likes to ride toys
- Likes to run, but falls and bumps into things

Comfort

If you do this:

- Stay close and supervise your child in the park
- Safety proof the house

Your baby will:

- Feel safe while exploring and testing out new motor skills
- Feel confident playing and exploring at home

Play

If you do this:

- Take your child to the park or playground often
- Play favourite music/songs and encourage her to move to the music

Your baby will:

- Enjoy every opportunity to practice walking, climbing, jumping and running skills
- Have fun swaying legs, body, arms and head to different rhythms

Teach

If you do this:

- Arrange an obstacle course so she can crawl through a box, under a chair or over a big pillow
- Offer your child balls of different sizes

Your baby will:

- Learn how to move her body through space
- Learn how to hold each ball and to throw or roll them

Intellectual Development (Language & Thinking Skills)

Your Baby at 13 to 18 Months

Typical Language Skills

- Points to show you something
- Understands far more words than can speak (e.g., can point to different body parts when asked, “Where’s your mouth?”)
- Uses 5 or more words to express needs, desires or expressions (e.g., “all gone”)

Emerging Language Skills

- Imitates animal sounds
- Uses own name to refer to self
- Follows simple directions without gestures (e.g., “come”, “show me”, “go get”, etc.)

Typical Thinking Skills

- Shows understanding of some colours and shapes (e.g., matches circles on a form board)
- Identifies pictures when requested (e.g., “Show me the ___” or “Where’s the ___?”)
- Shows increased memory skills (e.g., shows recognition of sounds such as footsteps)

Emerging Thinking Skills

- Groups similar things, such as socks, shoes
- Enjoys imaginative play during routines (e.g., feeding or bathing dolls and putting them to bed)
- Uses playdough and paints

Comfort

If you do this:

- Read board books and look at pictures with your child
- Use your child’s relaxed bath time to name parts of her body

Your baby will:

- Enjoy one-on-one time with you listening to simple stories and pointing to pictures
- Learn to point to different parts of the body by name

Play

If you do this:

- Hold up your child’s socks and say, “Socks go on your feet. Show me your feet.” Repeat using other clothes and body parts
- Watch your child’s cues to learn the things he likes to play with

Your baby will:

- Practice matching words to the different parts of his body as well as developing a positive sense of self and body image
- Take the lead in playing and doing things she enjoys

Teach

If you do this:

- Count things together in books and find the same objects in your home
- Offer a toy with wheels that can be pulled by a string; encourage her to watch what happens when she pulls the string

Your baby will:

- Match real objects with those that she sees in two-dimensional print
- Begin to understand cause and effect

Notes



A large sheet of lined paper with horizontal lines and a dashed midline, intended for taking notes. The paper is positioned to the left of a young child who is standing with their back to the camera, wearing a white diaper, and looking towards the paper.