

Supporting Language & Literacy

18 Months: The Importance of Asking Questions

Asking your child questions teaches them that their ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinions matter. Giving them the opportunity to share their thoughts teaches them to use their words to express themselves. Try asking children more open-ended questions because it allows them to think critically and express their own thoughts.

Tips & Activities



Encourage your child to communicate with words, signs, pictures, and gestures.
If your child points to something, model by labeling the object and then work on fading prompts.

Use positive words and give more attention to positive behaviors:
“Look how nicely you put the toy away. Good job.”



Get on their eye level & face them when talking.
It helps your child learn how your mouth moves to make different sounds.



Expand your child’s vocabulary.
Your child says, “Dog!”
You say, “Yes. A dog. Dogs say woof.”



Teach your child about their body.
Point to and say the name of that body part.



Common Language Milestones



- Follows simple, one-step directions without gestures, for example, ‘Give me the toy’
- Asks questions and uses short phrases, e.g. ‘Where kitty?’ or ‘Go bye bye’
- Meaningfully says 3 or more words, other than ‘mama’ or ‘dada’
- Points to make requests, to comment, or to get information
- Uses their name to refer to themselves
- Responds to questions

Early Detection *is* Intervention

Your child is always learning! As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success.

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Talk with your child's healthcare provider if your child:

Doesn't hold eye contact

Doesn't make any attempts to communicate

Doesn't respond when name is called

Does not babble



Source: Pathways.org

Additional Resources

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)