

### Differences in Development

As a parent, you know your toddler best. You notice things such as how and when your toddler learns new skills, eats new foods and plays with others. What you are seeing is how your toddler is growing through different stages of development.

Every toddler grows and develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your toddler's healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your toddler has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your child's healthcare provider if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay. Please make sure to discuss your concerns if:

#### **By age 18 months, your child:**

- Doesn't point to show things to others
- Can't walk
- Doesn't know what familiar things are used for
- Doesn't copy others' actions or words
- Doesn't gain new words
- Doesn't have at least six words
- Doesn't notice when a caregiver leaves or returns
- Loses skills he or she once had

#### **By age 2, if your child:**

- Doesn't know what to do with common things, such as a brush, phone, fork or spoon
- Doesn't copy actions and words
- Doesn't follow simple instructions
- Doesn't use two-word phrases (for example "drink milk")
- Doesn't walk steadily
- Loses skills he or she once had

#### **By age 3, if your child:**

- Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- Drools or has very unclear speech
- Can't work simple toys such as peg boards, simple puzzles, turning a handle
- Doesn't understand simple instructions
- Doesn't speak in sentences
- Doesn't make eye contact when getting your attention (may vary by culture)
- Doesn't play pretend or make-believe
- Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys
- Loses skills he or she once had

***The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children be screened for general development at their 18 and 24-month visit. Ask your child's healthcare provider about your child's developmental screening***