**MCH PEDS TIPSHEET:**
Key Ages and Stages 18 MONTHS

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<th>QUESTION 1</th>
<th>QUESTION 6</th>
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| Please list any concerns about your child’s learning, development and behaviour.  
  - Opens a discussion in all areas | Do you have any concerns about how your child behaves?  
  - Points to indicate interest  
  - Early pretend play  
  - Explores the environment |

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<th>QUESTION 2</th>
<th>QUESTION 7</th>
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| Do you have any concerns about how your child talks and makes speech sounds?  
  - Uses 5-10 words  
  - Understands many more words  
  - Jabbers | Do you have any concerns about how your child gets along with others?  
  - Enjoys cuddles  
  - Gives eye contact with parent |

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<th>QUESTION 3</th>
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| Do you have any concerns about how your child understands what you say?  
  - Understands many words  
  - Points to eyes, nose and mouth  
  - Obey simple instructions  
  - Waves bye | Do you have any concerns about how your child is learning to do things for himself/herself?  
  - Uses spoon and cup  
  - Takes off shoes and socks |

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<th>QUESTION 4</th>
<th>QUESTION 9</th>
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| Do you have any concerns about how your child uses his or her hands and fingers to do things?  
  - Builds a tower of 3-4 blocks  
  - Scribbles with palmer grasp  
  - Fine pincer grasp  
  - Turns pages  
  - Points to objects  
  - Points to eyes, nose and mouth  
  - Points to indicate interest | Do you have any concerns about how your child is learning preschool or school skills?  
  - Opportunity to discuss- reading, talking, interacting and play |

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<th>QUESTION 5</th>
<th>QUESTION 10</th>
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| Do you have any concerns about how your child uses his or her arms and legs?  
  - Walks well  
  - Climbs onto a chair  
  - Walks upstairs with help  
  - Run stiffly watching the ground  
  - Carries toy while walking  
  - Gestures  
  - Waves bye | Please list any other concerns  
  - Possible categories of concern- global, behavioural and language |

The Small red flags are alerts.  
See over for additional information.

**THIS TIPSHEET** has been compiled to offer the MCH nurse some prompts, if necessary, for further discussion with parents, when completing the PEDS screen.  
This has been written in context to the developmental age on the tip sheet, and is  
To be used as a guide only, not exclusive.  

Mary D. Sheridan. From Birth to Five Years, Children’s Developmental Progress.
Red Flags for 18 months

By 18 months typically developing toddlers are social and communicative with others. Infants who are later diagnosed with autism show problems with social interest, communication skills, play and behaviour by 18 months. All children with autism have delayed and unusual language. Check what, if any, words are used but also any odd language such a repetitive words, sounds, or non speech noises. Social problems may be more noticeable at this age. Toddlers at risk of autism usually do not imitate social baby games or use gestures to show, point, reach or wave. Some children with autism may gain social and language skills but then either lose them or not make further progress (plateau). Regression is a major red flag for autism and can occur between 12 and 24 months.

In particular ask about:

Social skills

• Points to indicate interest
• Enjoys cuddles
• Gives eye contact with parent
• Waves bye

Communication skills

• Uses 5-10 words
• Understands many more words
• Early pretend play

If any of these 4 large red flags are identified, immediate referral to the GP with a view to a paediatric assessment is indicated.

- Does not babble or coo by 12 months of age
- Does not gesture (point, wave, grasp, etc.) by 12 months of age
- Does not say single words by 16 months of age
- Has any loss of any language or social skill at any age.

Dr Avril Brereton and Kerry Bull 2011
Monash University Autism Secondary Consultation and Training Strategy ACT-NOW