



West Virginia HealthCheck

15 Month Visit

What to Expect at the 15 Month Visit

Your toddler is walking and communicating with 2 or 3 words. Temper tantrums and **stranger anxiety** pose frustrating challenges. The 15 month visit will focus on these joys and challenges and how your family is adapting. Some questions your provider may ask include:

What are some of the new things that your toddler is doing?

How does your toddler communicate what she wants?

Is your toddler having frequent temper tantrums? How do you respond to them?

- Your toddler's length and weight along with **head circumference** will be measured.
- Your toddler will have a complete head-to-toe physical examination.
- Your provider will ask questions about **tuberculosis** risk.
- Your toddler may receive one or more immunizations.
- Your provider will follow up on lab tests and immunizations from earlier visits.
- Your provider will talk with you about early oral health care and establishing a dental home.
- Throughout the visit, you will have opportunities to talk with the provider about questions and concerns you may have about your toddler. In addition, your provider will give you information on discipline, safety, and early oral health care.

Preventive Care Tips: Injury Prevention

Injuries are the leading cause of death of children in the United States. Most of these injuries can be prevented.

Most often, injuries happen because parents and caregivers are not aware of what their children can do. At 15 months, your child is likely walking, running, climbing, and exploring everything. Because of all the new things your toddler is doing, this can be a very risky time in your child's life.

It's up to parents, with help from the provider, to protect their toddler from injury. Regular well-child visits allow providers to address the questions and concerns of the parents and caregivers. In addition, providers can provide information about a toddler's development that will impact their overall well-being and safety.

Safety topics you may want to talk about with your toddler's provider include:

Car Safety

All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. Make sure that the safety seat is installed correctly.

The safest place for all children to ride is in the back seat.

Do not leave your toddler alone in or around the car.

Firearm Hazards

If you choose to keep a gun, keep it unloaded and in a locked place, with the ammunition locked separately.

Poisonings

Be sure to keep all household products and medicines completely out of sight and reach. Keep all products in their original containers.

If your toddler does put something poisonous into his or her mouth, call Poison Help immediately. Attach the **Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222)** to your phone.

Falls

To prevent serious falls, lock the doors to any dangerous areas. Use gates on stairways. If your toddler has a serious fall or does not act normally after a fall, call your doctor.

Burns

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home especially in sleeping areas. Test the alarms every month. Change the batteries at least once a year.

What To Expect At The 18 Month Visit

- Your provider will use a standardized **developmental screening tool** to evaluate specific **motor skills, communication** and **language skills**, and **cognitive ability**.
- Your provider will use an **autism-specific screening** tool to screen for autism.

**West Virginia
HealthCheck Program
1-800-642-9704**

www.dhhr.wv.gov/healthcheck

**Transportation Assistance
Contact MTM to schedule a ride
1-844-549-8353**

www.mtm-inc.net/west-virginia