

Imitation Skills

- Make sure you have good eye contact before attempting imitation activities.
- You can verbally state what you are doing but do not use so much language that it confuses or interferes with your child attending to the action being imitated.
- Praise and positively reinforce your child when they attempt to imitate.
- If your child does not respond, attempt to help them by using hand/over/hand assistance (if they allow it).
- If your child has difficulty imitating actions, try using highly motivating objects (imitate rolling a car, hugging a doll, pushing a button/switch on a toy).
- Have your child imitate actions in simple rhymes or songs (peek-a-boo, itsy bitsy spider, etc.).
- Have your child attempt to imitate animal sounds, vehicle sounds or funny sounds (ah oh, woo woo).
- When attempting verbal imitations, use motivating toys (such as an echophone) to entice your child to participate.
- Praise all verbal attempts, but try to refine their response if possible by saying the sound or word again and slowly emphasizing the sounds .