

Motor Imitation



What does it mean?

- When a child copy's your movement or action



Why is it important?

- Learning to imitate actions/movements is the foundation for learning to imitate sounds/words.
- When Typical development occurs, children will naturally begin to imitate movements, sounds, facial expressions and ultimately words.
- If it does not occur naturally, we need to TEACH them how to imitate us.
- Imitating is related to development of play skills, predicts language outcomes, promotes shared emotion, joint attention, and turn-taking

How can I do it at home?

- Imitate the Child- Follow their lead!
- When we copy the child it helps facilitate their joint attention and when we include their interests it is more motivating for the child to imitate
- Once we have their attention we can 'change or add' the movement to encourage them to imitate us.
- Say "Do This/Your Turn" then wait 5-10 seconds to see if child will independently imitate and then if not use hand-over-hand assistance to help.
- Examples:
 - clap your hands
 - Stomp your feet
 - Peek-a-boo (cover your eyes)
 - Stack a block
 - Place block on your head
 - Hit a music instrument
 - Stir pretend food/bowl