

Copying

Why is copying important?

Children need to learn to copy so they can learn new skills from other people.

Learning to copy things they can see and hear helps children to develop communication skills such as gestures and speech.

Children often need to see or hear things many times before they are able to copy them.

How to develop a child's copying skills

Join the child when they're playing with a favourite toy.

Copy what they do with your own set of toys.

When the child notices that you are copying them, change your play slightly and encourage them to copy you.

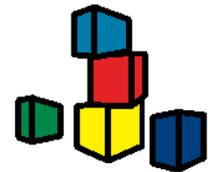
Children find it easier to copy things they can see rather than things they can hear. Start by practising copying with toys and actions before copying with speech.

Activities:

Toy Bricks

Start by copying what the child does with the bricks. If (s)he bangs 2 bricks together you do it too.

Then try something slightly different with the bricks, for example, hold them up above your head and bang them, then low near the floor or bang them on different surfaces.



Copying Actions

Play games like 'How big are you? So big'- raising your arms in the air. Encourage the child to copy.

Sing or say songs and rhymes that have actions. Encourage the child to copy the actions. Help them to move their hands or pause to see if they do the action to make you continue.



Action Songs

Some favourite action songs:

- Incy Wincy Spider
- Wind the Bobbin Up
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Row Row Row your boat



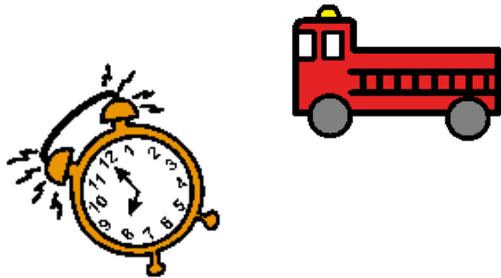
Copying faces

Make faces in the mirror together. Copy the child and encourage them to copy you by making a face then waiting.

Copying sounds

Make funny sounds such as raspberries, wobbling your tongue from side-to-side or saying “boo”.

Make sounds to go with play and pictures, such as animal sounds, “nee naw” for a fire engine, “brrrm” for a car, “tick tock” for a clock.



Copy any sounds that the child makes.

