

BUILDING VERBAL IMITATION IN YOUNG CHILDREN

ADAPTED FROM LAURA MIZE, M.S., CCC-SLP (TEACH ME TO TALK)

1) Actions with Objects

Help your child learn to imitate actions with objects.

- shake a rattle
- knock on a door
- hold a phone to ear
- feed a doll
- hammer a ball or peg toy
- stack blocks
- push a button on electronic toys
- put hat on

2) Communicative Gestures

Help your child learn to imitate body movements, gestures and simple sign language.

- stomp, kick, march
- animal movements
- wave
- clap
- pointing
- shaking head yes/no
- blow kisses



3) Nonverbal Actions with your Face and Mouth

Help your child learn to imitate new actions with his/her face and mouth.

- open/close mouth
- smile
- pout
- stick out tongue
- round lips
- widen eyes
- wiggle tongue



4) Vocalizations in Play

Help your child learn to imitate early vocalizations in play.

- yawn
- fake cough
- siren noise
- fake laugh/cry
- slurp while drinking
- sh! for quiet
- growl
- car/truck noises

5) Exclamatory Words

Help your child learn to imitate exclamatory words.

- yum or yummy
- yuck or yucky
- ouch or owie
- oops or whoops
- hooray
- yay
- aw man
- animal sounds

6) Automatic Speech in Verbal Routines

Teach your child to imitate automatic speech in verbal routines.

- pause to let child fill in words with ready, set go and 1,2,3
- Peek a Boo
- Patty Cake
- Twinkle Twinkle
- Wheels on the Bus
- Old Macdonald

7) Functional Words

Help your child learn to imitate single words.

- all done/gone
- baby
- hello/bye bye
- daddy/mommy
- please/thank you
- yes/no
- bath
- juice
- bath

8) Short Phrases

Help your child learn to imitate short phrases.

- my ____
- more ____
- bye bye ____
- I did it
- Come on
- Where it go
- What's that
- Where are you
- Right there



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