



Social/Emotional

Imitating a Peer

Objective

Teach the student to imitate varied actions from a peer.

Supplies

Toys

Teaching Steps

Step 1: Teach the student to imitate varied simple movements.

Step 2: Teach the student to imitate varied actions with objects.

Step 3: Teach the student to imitate varied complex actions.

Next Steps

Teach the student each step in the list of Sample Skills to Teach.

Generalization

- While student is around other children outside of the teaching session (e.g., play group, friend's house), say, "Do what (peer's name) is doing."
- Play "Follow the Leader" by having children sit in a circle and imitate the actions of the leader with no verbal directions given.

Exercise

1. Face the student toward a peer and sit or stand behind him.
2. Provide a list of actions for the peer to model in pictures or in text.
3. The peer will give the instruction, "Do this," or "Watch me," and model an action from the list.
4. To help the student respond correctly, prompt by immediately guiding him to imitate the response.

5. When the student responds correctly, provide verbal praise (e.g., "Great doing what (peer's name) is doing!"), and offer a reward such as a toy, snack, or token.
6. Gradually remove prompts until the student is able to respond independently (i.e., without your help).
7. Provide more/better rewards when the student responds correctly with less guidance, and the best rewards when the student responds correctly without guidance.

Error Correction

- Have the peer repeat the action, and physically guide the student to imitate the action.
- Say, "Do what (peer's name) is doing."

Other Prompting Procedures

- Point toward the peer.
- Say, "Watch (peer's name)."
- Pair the modeled action with an instruction (e.g., while demonstrating the response, tell the student, "Say, (clap)").

Troubleshooting

Problem: The student is not attending to the peer.

Solution: • Point to the peer.

- Say, "Watch (peer's name)."

Problem: The student is imitating the actions incorrectly.

Solution: Have the peer model actions that the student knows how to do.

Helpful Hints

- Have the peer deliver the rewards and praise.
- Use activities that the peer enjoys.



Social/Emotional

Imitating a Peer (continued)

Sample Skills to Teach

1. Imitate motor actions
2. Imitate actions with objects
3. Imitate motor actions while walking
4. Imitate actions with specific activities (e.g., Playdough)
5. Imitate vocal response