

Imitating Actions

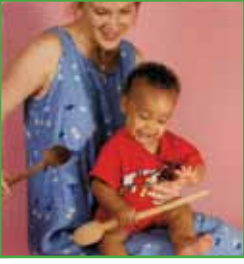


*You're banging
on the pan!*

Do some actions that
your baby can copy.

This helps him use
an important type of
learning: imitation.

Bang, bang!



Why this is important

You can take advantage of your baby's natural interest in what you do and encourage him to copy your actions. Providing many opportunities for your child to copy your actions helps him begin to use imitation as a way of learning. Many actions, such as talking, eating with a fork, or driving a car, depend—in some way—on good imitation.

What you do

- Sit down with your child. Hold a spoon and pan, and offer your baby a spoon to hold. Hit the pan with the spoon while saying *Bang, bang, bang!*
- Invite your baby to hit the pan, too. He may bang the pan right away, or he might spend more time watching you before he tries it.
- Offer positive feedback when he tries to bang with the spoon, even if his movements are incomplete. *You did what I did! You're banging with the spoon!*
- Repeat the game with other motions such as tapping the pan with your hands, or using a different object instead of a spoon. Keep the movements simple, and use slow, exaggerated motions that he can follow.
- Try copying your baby when he makes a movement different than yours.

Another idea

Try the game using songs and rhymes with hand motions such as "Pat-a-cake." You can clap your hands once while saying *clap*. You may also try spreading your arms wide and saying *big*. Think of other simple gestures your baby may want to imitate.

Let's read together!

Little Mister
by Randy Duburke