**1. Imitating sounds**

Encourage your child to continue making sounds and engage in back-and-forth sound games.

* Get face-to-face with your child
* Imitate your child’s sounds.
* Pause to see if your child repeats the sound. If she does, imitate again to create a back-and-forth imitation game
* Sing familiar songs and rhymes over and over
* Once your child knows a song well, pause before a favorite part to see if your child will fill in the blank

**2. Imitating actions on objects**

* Use matching sets of objects to play with your child so that you both have the same objects
* Get face-to-face with your child and imitate exactly what he does with the objects
* Once he enjoys this game, try showing him a different action with the object. Pause expectantly to see if he will imitate. If he doesn’t gently help him to.
* Praise your child for imitating your action, whether or not you helped. Go back to imitating his choice of actions for a while before trying again.
* Keep it fun! Add silly sound effects and label the actions as you go.

**4. Expand on imitation**

* Strengthen imitation skills in familiar games with familiar objects, using easy and fun new actions.
* Use turn-taking imitation games when you introduce new play materials to your child.
* Continue to imitate your child as well so that you both have a turn to ‘lead’.
* Incorporate imitation games across your daily routines – for example during mealtimes, diaper changes, dressing and bathing.

**3. Imitating facial expressions and gestures**

* Pick a gesture in a favorite song. When it gets to that part of the song, begin the gesture, then help your child to imitate by moving her hands. Reward her by continuing the song.
* Each time give your child less and less help so she is doing it more independently. Don’t worry if she doesn’t do it exactly. Give lots of praise and encouragement!
* Use exaggerated facial expressions when playing with your child and in all your daily routines together.
* Try playing in front of a mirror together and making silly faces and sounds.