

Imitation Skills

Building Verbal Imitation in Toddlers (Laura Mize)

- Actions with objects (shake rattle, bang blocks)
- Communicative gestures (stomp, kick, animal movements)
- Nonverbal actions with face and mouth (stick out tongue, use a whistle)
- Vocalizations in play (yawn, vehicle noises)
- Exclamatory words (ouch, boo)
- Automatic speech in verbal routines (ready, set, go; pat a cake)
- Functional words (all done, hot)
- Short phrases (I got it, I see ___)

Play and Early Social Routines

Play Development

- 8-11 months: Pre-symbolic level (when infants are capable of recognizing the real relationship between familiar objects and their related actions, such as drinking from a cup) (Fein, 1981; McCune, 1995)
- 11-12 months: Symbolic play is evident when the infant uses sound effects or gestures, paired with behaviors (tossing head back to drink) (McCune, 1995)
- There is a parallel pattern of development to symbolic play and language (McCune, 1995)

Early Social Routines (Laura Mize)

- Children show that they are learning routines by laughing, participating, and eventually initiating the routine.
- Saying associated words might not come for months, but if the child is doing all of the prerequisites, we know the child is understanding the routine, with or without the word.