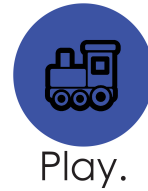


PLAY & LEARN:

Birdie, Birdie book



Imitation is an essential skill for early learning. Imitation is a skill that serves two purposes for young children:

- *Learning* – the means for children to acquire new skills and knowledge
- *Social* – a way for children to interact and express their emotions with others

Early face-to-face interactions give both infant and parents opportunities for “games” that include vocal and motor imitation, as well as facial expressions. Babies fall even deeper in love with their caring adults when they talk, sing, bounce, dance, and share playful interactions with them. Toddlers love imitation games that include gestures, such as finger plays and action songs.

As infants grow, play starts to include imitation with toys and other objects. Playing with toys is the best way for toddlers to interact with other toddlers, as they interact by performing the same actions with the toys. Toddler “play dates” typically consist of two friends playing side by side in “parallel play.” With time, these early interactions create an interest in playing with others. Children love imitative play when they are able to lead the “copycat” game as well as follow the actions of another.

Here are some simple ways to enrich and extend your child’s ability to imitate. Enjoying these simple play activities together will also enhance the bond between you and your child.

Bird’s Nest Fun. Turn a sturdy cardboard box or plastic bin into a bird’s nest the perfect size for your favorite little “birdie.” Add a cozy blanket or towel, and invite your child to hop into her perch. Place the nest by your bookshelf so she can easily reach her favorite books to enjoy in her special spot. Move the nest to your kitchen so that you can sing together as you make dinner.



What Do Birdies Do? Birdies are busy! They fly, eat worms, build nests, sing, peck, walk, flutter, fluff their wings and lay eggs. Ask your child to “be a birdie” and act out one of these actions. You can guess what your birdie is doing. Now it is your turn to be the birdie! Imitate him as he shows you how to move like a birdie.



Together we will help your child learn and grow. **SingPlayLove.com**