

# Robot in the Mirror

You have to imagine that your reflection in the mirror is a robot that you can direct, so that you make it move the parts you want it to move. This activity follows on from 'Do what I do', but it is more difficult because your helper now tells you what they want you to do and does not show you. This activity helps you to understand the difference between your right side and someone else's right side.

## **Step 1. Make the robot move one part**

Stand in a balanced posture in front of a mirror, preferably a full length mirror so that you can see your whole body. You have to pretend that your reflection in the mirror is a robot that you can control. However, the robot is facing in the opposite direction to you, so if you have to work out how to make the robot move the correct part.

Your helper will tell you what they want the robot to do then you have to make the robot move as your helper has asked. E.g. your helper may say '**make the robot put its left hand on its nose**'. How would you make this happen?

### **Notes for helpers:**

This activity will not be understood until they realise that when their right side is moved the robot moves its left. **Don't tell them** this is what they need to do.

Start with basic actions where you ask for only one part to move and the movement does not require a crossing of the midline of their body, i.e. one arm or leg does not cross to the opposite side of their body.

Possible actions could be to make the robot:

1. Point it's right or left arm, forwards, backwards or to the side at shoulder height.
2. Raise it's right or left arm, to the side or in front, so it is bent at the elbow.
3. Place it's right or left hand with the palm open.
  1. The top of it's head.
  2. On it's shoulder.
  3. On it's tummy.
  4. On it's knee.
  5. On it's forehead.

6. On it's ear.
4. Make its hand like a pointer by closing the fist and pointing with the index finger to.
  1. It's nose.
  2. It's eye.
  3. It's ear.
  4. It's chin, etc, etc...
5. Lift one leg in front with the knee bent, or lift the leg to the side or straight out in front or behind with the knee straight, etc, etc...

### **Step 2. Make the robot move one part - cross overs.**

Now your helper asks you to make the robot move one part, just like in step 1 above. However, now your helper will ask you to make the robot move so that it crosses over the middle of its body.

#### **Notes for helpers:**

Start with basic actions where you ask for movement of only one part so the robot will cross the midline of its body, ie one arm or leg crosses over to the opposite side of its body.

You could ask for any of the actions described above, except the arm, hand or leg you ask them to move crosses over the midline, eg make the robot touch its **left** ear with its **right** index finger.

### **Step 3. Make the robot move 2 parts at the same time.**

Your helper will now ask you to make the robot move 2 parts at the same time. E.g. they may say '**make the robot put its right hand on its head and its left index finger on its nose**'.

#### **Notes for helpers:**

Possible actions could be to make the robot:

1. Point it's left or right arm, forwards, backwards or to the side at shoulder height, or raise one arm above its head (with palm facing forwards, backwards or toward the middle) while also.

2. Placing it's other hand with palm flat.
  1. The top of it's head.
  2. On it's right or left shoulder.
  3. On it's tummy.
  4. On it's right or left knee.
  5. On it's forehead.
  6. On it's right or left ear.
  7. On it's opposite elbow.
3. Make its hands like pointers and point with the 2 index fingers to any combination of.
  1. It's nose.
  2. It's eye.
  3. It's ear.
  4. It's chin.
  5. It's opposite elbow.
4. Combine the pointing hand with placing its whole hand with the palm open, on top of its head, or on its shoulder, etc...
5. Lift one leg in front with the knee bent, or lift the leg to the side or straight out in front or behind with the knee straight combined with placing its hand on its head, etc, or pointing its index finger to its eye, ear, etc...