

## Suggested Presentation Timeline: Imitation



This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

### Minutes 0 - 10      Welcome and Introductions

- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements).

### Minutes 10 - 40      Presentation of Topic

Provide your group with an overview of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

*Jason is three months old and sitting in his car seat. Jason's dad sticks his tongue out slightly while Jason watches. After about a minute, Jason sticks his tongue out too. Is Jason imitating his dad?*

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

*Definition of Imitation: Imitation is a way in which children learn by coping or imitating their parents' behavior and become more aware of their words and actions. Imitation is a tool infants and young children use to understand and make sense of the social and moral world around them.*


3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

- When you think of the word imitation, what ideas come to mind?
- What are some examples of young children imitating those around them?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

*"Several researchers agree that imitation relates to children's developing theory of mind, or the understanding of other individual's beliefs, intentions, and other internal states. Some researchers also explicitly claim a joint role for imitation and social cognition in the transmission of cultural skills and moral values." (Forman, et al., 2004)*



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- Review the goals of what you intend to teach, describe what tools/resources they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program Curriculum.

**Minutes 40 - 50      Applied Learning Activity**

- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

**Minutes 50 - 60      Closure and Evaluation**

- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

