

Learning and Cognitive Development: Imitation

Teaching Tips:

- It may be helpful to teach imitation after having introduced the concepts in the overview of pillar three, Learning and Cognitive Development.
- Most parents have seen examples of imitative behavior in their children, but they may not understand how these behaviors lead to learning.
- To introduce this topic, provide a definition of imitation and ask parents to share some examples of when they have seen their child engage in imitative behaviors.
- Use the key messages below as a focus for teaching this topic as well as a summary of the content.

Learning Objectives for Parents and Caregivers

After learning about imitation, parents and caregivers will be able to:

- 1) Describe the importance of imitation for children's learning and development
- 2) Identify factors that shape and influence imitation
- 3) Explain why and how their own actions and behaviors influence their children's learning

Key Messages for Parents and Caregivers

- 1) Imitation is one of the earliest and most important ways that children learn their world and the people in it.
- 2) Imitation occurs at various stages of development with varying motivations and purposes.
- 3) Children imitate their parents' behaviors; therefore, parents' actions have a strong influence over a child's learning.

