

## Imitating What I See

*A way to participate in activities with others, practice new tasks, and learn new skills.*

### ***I imitate what I see to:***

- participate in my family's routines and events.
- practice making sounds and forming words.
- learn social gestures like waving hello and good-bye.
- learn how to play with others and follow directions.
- learn how to do things for myself.
- learn about reading and writing.
- work on solving problems.
- practice taking turns.

### ***My caregivers help me to imitate what I see by:***

- providing items from my home culture so I can imitate what I see others doing with them.
- repeating sounds that I make. Hold facial expressions long enough to give me time to mimic them.
- imitating actions and sounds back and forth with me.
- helping me with routines like trying new foods or washing hands.
- providing the tools and toys needed for pretend play, such as buckets for carrying, baby dolls to care for, or dishes to wash.
- offering materials that allow me to imitate writing and drawing, like paper and crayons.
- doing finger plays and other music and movement games so I can imitate a variety of actions.
- modeling problem-solving skills for me to practice.



*Two brothers explore a play cash register together. They imitate what they see others do with cash registers in stores. The older brother is modeling and teaching his younger brother through play.*



## Finger plays with actions to try with your child



### **Open, Shut Them**

**“Open, shut them, open, shut them”**

(Open and close hands)

**“Give a little clap, clap, clap”**

(Clap hands three times)

**“Open, shut them, open, shut them”**

(Open and close hands)

**“Put them in your lap, lap, lap”**

(Place hands in lap, patting your lap three times)

**“Creep them, crawl them, creep them, crawl them to your little chin”**

(Creep fingers from your stomach to your chin in a tickling motion)

**“Open up your little mouth”**

(Open your mouth)

**“Do not let them in!”**

(Shake your head “No”)

### **This Little Piggy**

**“This little piggy went to market”**

(Wiggle big toe)

**“This little piggy stayed home”**

(Wiggle second toe)

**“This little piggy had roast beef”**

(Wiggle middle toe)

**“This little piggy had none”**

(Frown and wiggle fourth toe)

**“And this little piggy went ‘wee, wee, wee’ all the way home!”**

(Wiggle little toe and slide a tickling finger down the sole of the baby’s foot)



*For more information on imitation, view the Resources and References found at the end of these materials.*