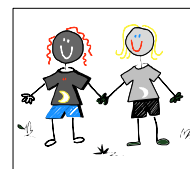


Information and advice from:



Early Development and
Inclusion Team
Supporting Inclusion at
the Early Years

Copy Box



- Your child will learn a lot by copying you, but first you need to copy them to show how it's done. Copying encourages eye contact and allows you and your child to play together.
- A **Copy Box** is particularly useful if your child tends to play on their own and doesn't easily respond to your attempts to play with them.

What you need

- Two boxes – shoeboxes are ideal – and some identical items to put in each. It can be anything that your child is interested in or a selection of objects to explore. **Try these suggestions** to get started:
 - 2 cups and 2 spoons;
 - 2 brushes and 2 teddies;
 - 2 tambourines and 2 shakers;
 - a selection of matching bricks.

What to do

- Offer your child one box and show them the contents. **WAIT** to see what your child chooses to do with the objects. Then copy your child's actions with the duplicate box.
- Get down to the same level as your child and sit opposite to encourage eye contact. If your child finds this difficult you can sit alongside.
- Don't ask questions. Instead use simple language to describe what your child and you are doing e.g. 'stirring cup', 'brushing hair', 'red brick, blue brick', 'one, two, three bricks'
- Be aware that your child may prefer it if you copy quietly.

What to look for

- Your child may look at you or show in some other way that they have noticed you are copying them. Once your child gets used to being copied in this way, they may keep looking at what you are doing.
- Your child may then pause and wait for you to copy. This is the beginning of turn taking,

What next?

- Try adding a little something to the play, e.g. pretending to drink tea, then pause and see if your child copies you. Don't worry if they don't, return to copying them and try again later.