

'Copy me' Games

What are they?

The aim of 'Copy me' games is to establish a back and forwards interaction between you and your child.

'Copy me' games are extremely important. They support children to share early interactions with adults and eventually allow adults to build on interactions.

'Copy me' games are led by your child. The games revolve around things that your child enjoys doing. During 'copy me' games your child is 'the boss', they make the decisions about how you will play.

Things to remember before you begin:

Make sure your child can see your face; this means you will need to be sat opposite them, on their level.

Try to have two sets of toys/ items that they enjoy, e.g. two balls, two sets of trains, etc. This means you can copy what they are doing with your own item.

Steps to play a 'Copy me' game

Step 1 - Copy your child

- Stop, watch and listen to what they are doing. Observe what they are focused on, how they are playing with it, etc.
- Copy everything that you see and hear your child doing. For example, if the child is pushing the train and saying "choo choo", do the same with your train.
- Comment on their actions, or what they have said. Use very simple language, one word per action is usually enough.

Step 2 - Help your child copy you

- If your child is responding to the interaction, add a new part to the game, for example push your train and make a gesture when you say "choo choo". Encourage the child to copy you.
- If your child is not yet interacting, stay at Step 1 and continue building your copying skills until your child is ready to interact.