



# CONTINGENT IMITATION

A research-based intervention for increasing imitation skills and early interaction skills

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A responsive interactive technique defined as the immediate and accurate imitation of the child's actions and vocalizations in full view of the child.  
(Killmeyer et al., 2019)

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## THE PARTNER IMITATES:



BODY  
MOVEMENTS



ACTIONS  
WITH OBJECTS



GESTURES



VOCALIZATIONS

## A POWERFUL INTERVENTION TOOL

Contingent imitation has been shown to be an effective intervention tool for children with a range of language needs and disabilities. Contingent imitation is an ideal starting point for a child who lacks imitation skills. Studies have shown that contingent imitation leads to improved motor imitation and verbal imitation skills. It has also been shown to increase social communication skills in young children with an autism diagnosis.

Killmeyer (2019) found that contingent imitation led to increased social engagement and social eye gaze in autistic children at age 2. They also found that caregivers trained in contingent imitation were more responsive to their child's cues and used fewer questions and directives.

Hwang and Hughs (2000) found that a social interaction program that included contingent imitation, natural reinforcement, environmental arrangement, and expectant looks led to improvements in motor imitation and joint attention in autistic children at age 3.