



## The Power of Imitation in Learning

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, a mimic may be worth a million! The most simple and natural learning happens with imitation. We watch and notice and do the same ourselves. In fact, we are often able to mimic actions we can't even explain in words. So it is for most things we learn in our lives – from our first smiles and foot steps to Olympic level skating (should we ever choose to master such feats).

### Games let this happen if you choose them right!

Games offer opportunities for a parent or a teacher to be a fellow-player. The game breaks down the hierarchy of adult over child and as a result strengthens the power of modeling. Players can sound out words “together” or the fellow-player may hint, or tell, or show. Any help that is needed should be O.K. and should not effect the outcome of a turn. Either way the points and moves should be the same. If a game is going to provide incentive, that advantage shouldn't be lost in frustration, so choose games where luck is the key to all the fun.