

Copy Each Other

*I can, you
can, march.*

*March, march,
march!*



Play an imitation game with your child, saying your actions as you do them.

Your child will have an opportunity to say words that help her lead or follow.



Why this is important

Children like to try new ways to move, and they like to do what you do. You can make it fun to practice the following and leading skills that grow into cooperation. Knowing the names for her actions allows her to better explain what is happening. When she can describe what she is doing, she can take the leader's role in many games.

What you do

- Perform an action as you say or sing a verse.

I can, you can.

Hop, hop, hop.

- Use motions you have noticed your child learning, such as: hopping on one foot, skipping a step, jumping with both feet, etc.
- Use a single word to describe each action so that she can easily repeat the word. Try *nod*, *tap*, *clap*, *jump*, *bend*, or *march*. She will interpret the word by watching your actions.
- Change the game by inviting her to lead and choose the action.

Another idea

Encourage your child to play this game with a small group of friends. Everyone has a turn as the leader, and each child chooses the motion when she leads.

Let's read together!

Elizabeth's Doll
by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen