

COPY CAT



This Copy Cat can help your child learn to listen and respond to sounds and patterns.

THINK ABOUT...

If your child has hearing loss and uses hearing aids or cochlear implants to develop listening and spoken language, it is essential that he/she develops strong listening skills. Parents and professionals place a lot of emphasis on language development – and appropriately so! But in order for language growth to occur, your child must strengthen the listening pathways that lead to the language centers of the brain.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Cat Mask (PDF below)

PREPARATION

- 1- Print and cut out Cat Mask (pdf below)
- 2- Hole punch just below the ears. Attach a string through either side to create a mask.

ACTIVITY

- 1- Explain that you are going to play a game of Copy Cat. Copy Cat has to copy whatever he or she hears. Explain that Copy Cat has ears to help her hear and listen just like you can hear and listen.
- 2- Put on the Copy Cat mask or ears and demonstrate that whoever is playing the role of Copy Cat will mimic what they hear. You can use any combination of words or sounds – the goal is for your child to repeat what he/she hears and do it in the correct order.
- 3- First, model the task for your child. For example, while wearing the mask, a spouse or sibling can listen as you knock three times on the table, clap once, and then say La La La. The person wearing the mask should then try to repeat this sequence back in the same order in which it was presented.
- 4- Now give your child the chance to become Copy Cat. Emphasize that Copy Cat has to really listen in order to repeat back the correct pattern. Now you can present your child with different sounds and sequences!
- 5- If your child is having trouble remembering a pattern, remind him/her that Copy Cat can always ask to hear something again. This will teach your child self-advocacy, an important skill at home and school.

VOCABULARY:

- Pattern
- Knock
- Clap
- Snap
- Repeat
- Any age-appropriate words or sound sequences

HELPFUL TIPS

- Keep the patterns simple at first – whatever is not too hard or too easy. As your child gets better at listening for the pattern, you can introduce more complex sounds, words, environmental noises, or even add pauses in between sounds to create a fun rhythm.
- Be sure to switch roles and let your child present a pattern to copy as you are Copy Cat. This is a great opportunity to purposefully repeat back the wrong pattern. This gives your child the chance to listen for and correct your mistake. This helps to practice auditory discrimination, while also learning that he/she can correct others if misheard.

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.

