

## Section 1.7

# Copying actions and gestures

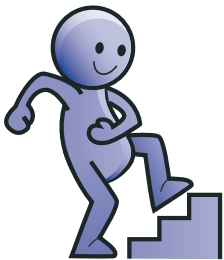


### Why is this important?

The understanding and use of gesture develops in tandem with verbal communication. If children can use gestures and copy actions, they can begin to communicate their needs and wants.

### What to do

- Show the child how to wave 'hello' and 'goodbye' by doing it on a regular basis yourself.
- Get down to his/her level so he/she can see what you're doing.
- Gently prompt to encourage joining in and be quick to praise when this happens.
- Use gestures as part of the daily routine (e.g. drinking, eating, nap time). Always use the words alongside the gestures to help understanding.



### Step up

- Increase the variety of gestures.
- Encourage the child to use different gestures to indicate his/her needs (e.g. copy 'drink').
- Pair the gesture and the phrase (e.g. wave and say 'bye-bye' at the same time).

### Step down

- Wave together, hand over hand.
- Wave without speaking.
- Make sure the person 'leaves' after the child waves to ensure the whole sequence of events is followed through.

