

**DOMAIN 1: APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT****SUB-DOMAIN: COGNITION AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES****IMITATION****GOAL 10: CHILDREN IMITATE BEHAVIORS THAT THEY HAVE OBSERVED.**

| Age Range              | Developmental Growth   | Child Indicators  | Caregiver Strategies  |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>16 to 38 Months</b> | Observes and replicates expressions, words, and actions of others in functional play, including familiar people, and characters from books, poetry, songs, or media. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Imitates a single action from a finger play or dance movement.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates a sequence of behavior after observing another child or adult.</li> <li>▪ Imitates parent or caregiver's familiar behavior or gestures (e.g. pulls clothes from dryer, puts hands on hips, or strikes a familiar pose).</li> <li>▪ Uses imitation to play (e.g. pouring water in the bathtub and identifying it as making tea, or pretending to hammer nails with a paper towel role, or digging in the sandbox and "planting a flower" using a stick as the flower).</li> <li>▪ Displays behaviors, replicates play themes, says words from characters from a book or media, and may pretend the character is a playmate.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide tools, props, and opportunities for imitative tasks and behavior.</li> <li>▪ Use actions, songs, finger plays sung or recited at a slow pace, so that children can "sing" along for at least part of the song.</li> <li>▪ In child care, provide everyday tasks for toddlers to do (e.g. set the table, put blocks in a tub for cleanup, or pick up coats to put in the cubbies).</li> <li>▪ Support play with open ended materials (cups, measuring spoons, pitchers, dolls).</li> <li>▪ Read books and poems, talking about and showing children what reading concepts you are using (e.g. "Here is the title; here is the way I gently turn the pages; here is the front of the book; and here is the back of the book.").</li> <li>▪ Offer activities that mimic daily life, such as "washing babies" at the water table.</li> </ul> |