

# Sound Imitation

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Toddlers will imitate sounds more easily than words. Verbal sounds should be made simultaneously with movement. Don't just push the car – push the car and say, “vroom.” Don't just tap the drum – tap the drum and say, “boom-boom.” Many times parents will report that their toddler does not say words. However, during play the toddler makes the cow say “moo,” the truck say “rrrr,” the bubbles go “pop,” and the blocks go “uh-oh.” All of these sounds use the same vowel and consonant sounds that will be used for syllables and words. If parents make lots of verbal sounds during play, toddlers will begin to imitate these sounds as an important first step to imitating words and phrases.

Here are sound imitation activities.

## Transportation

Train	“choo-choo”	Push train down track.
Car	“beep-beep”	Drive car.
Fire Truck	“whoo-woo”	Drive the truck.
Boat	“puh-puh-puh”	Sail the boat in wave motion.
Truck	“honk-honk”	Honk a horn on the semi, pulling down.

## Food and Kitchen Play Set

Popcorn	“pop-pop-pop”	Pop fingers up.
Hot Chocolate	“hot”	Blow on the cup.
Happy Face	“mmm-mmm”	Lick lips.
Yucky Face	“yuck or blah”	Stick tongue out and wrinkle nose.

## Household Objects/Toys

Clock	“tick-tock”	Rock head back and forth
Phone	“ring-ring”	Hold phone up to ear
Vacuum	“brrrrmmmm”	Pretend to push vacuum/toy vacuum

## Dolls/Action Figures/Animals

Sneezing	“achoo”	Place hand over nose and mouth.
Hiding	“peekaboo”	Cover face.
Baby	“waaah”	Tap baby.
Cow	“moo”	
Dog	“ruff, ruff”	
Duck	“quack, quack”	

