

Let's Play Follow the Leader

Primary Objectives

- 1b. Follows limits and expectations
- 4. Demonstrates traveling skills

Why It's Important

When you provide examples and model expected behavior, you help your child understand how and when to care for household materials. Although your child may be physically capable of completing specific tasks at home, he continues to learn by example. Demonstrating a task to your child and then asking him to immediately practice that task reinforces your home routines and expectations.

Materials

A room that needs tidying

What You Do

1. Be sure there are several things out in the room that need to be put away. Include a variety of objects to be put in different locations around the room.
2. Invite your child to play Follow the Leader. Ask him to follow you around the room and do what you do.
3. Walk or march in a silly way to make cleaning up more enjoyable. Walk slowly around the room, picking up a toy and putting it away, then waiting for him to repeat your movements.
4. Explain each task as you complete it. *Now I am hanging a coat on the hook. Now you are hanging a coat on the hook.*
5. When the room is clean, remember to thank your child for his help with the task. Recall with your child all the areas that were messy and list together the items he put away.
6. Point out to him how nice the room looks when it is clean and how easy it will be to find toys and materials later when he wants to use them.
7. You can extend this activity by giving your child an opportunity to be the leader. Mimic his motions as he moves around the room putting things away.