

Learning Activity 11: Modeling (MD)

Set Up

- Create sequential movement activity. Verbalize without modeling and have participants complete. Verbalize then model and have participants complete. Note the greater accuracy in model attempt.

Process

- Verbally tell participants 4-5 steps of a sequential activity or use a foreign/jargon language to tell participants to do a known activity. For example: stand up, take one step forward, touch your right hand to your left foot and then touch your head with your left hand OR tell the participants to collect materials from the back table by saying “gents furba incher furbish Narmer.”
- Be careful to not provide any gestures or cues to what you are asking.
- Allow participants to struggle or be in confusion.
- Next model for the participants what you have asked them to do.
- Explain that children that are learning language or new skills benefit from having the skill modeled for them, just as they experienced.

Follow-up

- Challenge participants to think of times throughout their day where there are communication breakdowns and/or challenging behaviors and how they may incorporate modeling. Modeling expectations for activities is also beneficial.