

## **Is it resulting or intentional action that young children tend to imitate?**

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When children reproduce actions of others they can discriminate between the accidental and intentional actions (Meltzoff, 1995; Carpenter, et al. 1998). But it can be explained by the children tendency to imitate the successful action, cause usually we initiate the action for its result.

That's why we need to explore if children prefer using the effectiveness or the intentionality as the base for reproducing observed action.

In the wide range of research dedicated to this problem the adult's actions effectiveness was varied by different ways (Nielsen, 2006; Lyons, et al., 2007). They showed that children tend to overimitate adult's actions (or ignore their ineffectiveness), and that it was true only for 18-24 months.

But the objects in these experiments were designed like containers with an interesting toy inside. We suppose that taking the toy out of the container may be more complicated action for the children to assess its operational composition. Would the age limit for other action types be the same?

We demonstrated to 14- and 18-month children one series of two-step actions on objects that made interesting result occur. Some of the modeled actions were marked vocally as intentional, some were marked vocally as accidental. Those markers were varied between resultative action and action without result on each of the objects. 18-months reproduced the intentional action even when it hadn't result (and other action in the series was resultative). 14-months didn't prefer any demonstrated action when intentional action hadn't result.