Follow the Leader

Have children line up in a "choo-choo-train" to play follow the leader. Instruct the "leader" to lead the train to a certain location, choosing which way to lead the group (e.g., "Leader, take us to the art table!"). To add challenge, call out, "reverse!" and have all children turn around, making the child at the back the new leader.

Point out children's ideas about which route to take as they navigate the classroom.

More Support: Instead of moving around the classroom, encourage a child to follow your movements (e.g., patting head, waving). Or narrate their movements and mirror what they are doing. Point out their interests and actions.

Promote Autonomy

"I see that you are leading everyone to the table. You chose to go around the rug instead of over it!"

"You led the class all the way outside! That was a long way, but you did it!"

Copyright © 2021 by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia