

Developing Minds

Gesture and Learning

When children gesture themselves, their ability to problem-solve improves. A study showed children a card depicting two small shapes. Children were asked to combine the two shapes and identify a larger shape. Some children used hand movements to explain how they combined the shapes. Children who made gestures identified the correct shape more often than those who did not gesture. Watching another person gesture to make the shapes did not help children solve the problem.

[Article](#)



Caregiver Tip!

When your child is learning a new skill, try asking them to make gestures to explain their thinking. For example, if your child is learning how to tie their shoes, encourage them to use hand movements to show the correct process.



Get involved!

[Infants: Temperament Lab](#)

[Children: Developing Mind Lab](#)

Created by Audrey Weaver