

Turn Taking in Play

Many young children find it difficult to learn to wait, share, and take turns. A child with a communication difficulty may find it particularly hard to accept the rules of turn-taking and sharing.

These skills should be encouraged early on, to help develop an understanding of the rules of conversational turn-taking as well as promoting good standards of behaviour.

Strategies to Ensure Success:

- Start by working on turn-taking when you **are 1 to 1 with the child**. It is much harder to learn to share with two or three other children.
- Make sure there are no **distractions**.
- **Be in control of the situation** by keeping hold of the equipment/toys being used.
- Demonstrate the activity first, so that the child understands what is required.
- Use **appropriate phrases** such as: "my turn/your turn/Katie's turn".
- If the child is reluctant to take turns, let them have two turns for every one that you have.
- If the child is still unwilling to take turns, remove the toy altogether and come back to it later when they are more likely to co-operate.



Activity Ideas to encourage turn taking:

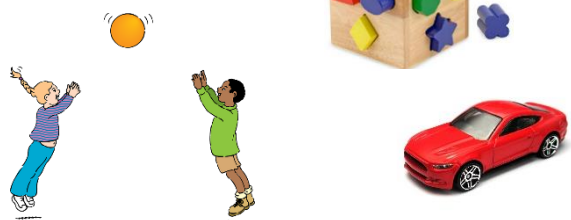
Swapping Toys

Have two motivating toys available. Give the child one toy and let them play with it for a while. Then offer the child the second toy, but only give them the second toy when the first one is returned.

Give and Take Games

The following toys can be used to encourage turn-taking and sharing:

- Throw balls and bean bags to each other
- Send wind up toys back and forth
- Roll cars towards each other
- Take turns to post a shape in the box
- Take turns to lift up the flap of books



Everyday Sharing

Encourage turn-taking and sharing during every day routines, such as: taking turns... on the swing, to water the garden, to clap hands, or taking a crisp from the packet.

Floor Play



Encourage turn-taking and sharing during floor play, such as: taking turns...to add another brick to the tower; adding pieces to a puzzle; banging a drum; rolling a ball and knock down the skittles; pushing a car down a ramp; or playing simple board games



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