

Turn Taking

Many children find it difficult to wait, share and take turns. This is a normal stage of development. However, encouraging turn taking early on can support turn taking when using language. Physical turn taking helps develop the child's ability to wait and allow others to take part in an interaction. Play time is a great way to support and develop your child's turn taking skills, the following ideas will help:

- ✓ Work with your child alone at first. Do not introduce other children to take turns until your child is comfortable and managing turns consistently over a number of weeks with one adult.
- ✓ Demonstrate the activity first so that your child understands what is required. It may be that initially turns are taken in an activity the child has chosen (e.g. taking turns building a tower).
- ✓ You may have to intercept the toy or activity to take a brief turn before returning the item to your child for their turn (e.g. adult ready to catch the ball out of the chute, has a go then lets the child catch the ball).
- ✓ Tap yourself or point to your child to help them understand whose turn it is and label the turns saying "My Turn" or "Your turn." Talk about taking turns e.g. "Who's next?" "My turn, your turn", "Now Daddy".
- ✓ If your child is reluctant at first, let them have two turns to every one that you have, gradually increase the length of turns once your child understands that they will get their turn after you.
- ✓ You can incorporate turn taking into everyday activities for example; brushing hair, getting dressed, cooking and tidying up.

✓ **Activity ideas include;**

- Blowing bubbles through a wand
- Playing an instrument
- Pushing cars towards each other/down a track
- Lifting the flaps in a book or turning the pages
- Posting shapes or pictures into a post box
- Using toys e.g. jack in the box, wind-up toys, push and go cars etc.
- Take turns to put the next coloured ring on the ring stacker
- Playing games e.g. Pop up Pirate, Mr Potato Head, Kerplunk, Fishing Games, Puzzles
- Building a tower using bricks, or stacking cups
- Throw or roll a ball/beanbag to each other.