

Early Years Play Activities

Turn Taking

Why?

By helping your child take turns in play activities, it will help them learn the importance of turn taking in communication.

How?

Initially begin to play these turn taking game with just your child but as your child gains understanding and confidence gradually introduce others.

Use phrases 'My turn' 'Your turn' 'Good waiting' constantly throughout the activity.

Wait for your child to have his or her turn.

What to do?

Simple turn taking games could be:

- Spinning top or pressing a switch on a cause and effect toy
- Dropping balls down a tube/helter skelter
- Blowing bubbles
- Rolling a car down a ramp
- Building a brick tower
- Dropping shapes into a post box or shape sorter
- Banging a drum
- Bouncing a ball



More interactive turn taking games:

These games involve the child acknowledging YOU are part of the game.

- Peek-a-boo
- Ready Steady go! games
- Pushing a car back and forth
- Rolling or kicking a ball back and forth
- Hitting a balloon back and forth
- Having a pretend conversation on a toy telephone, taking turns to speak
- Taking turns to pour and drink a pretend cup of tea
- Taking turns to turn a page of a book or open a flap
- Lotto games – taking turns to take a picture
- Inset puzzle – take in turns to place a piece of puzzle
- Taking turns down the slide
- Taking turns to use a cutter for play dough

Points to remember:

- Make the games pacy and short initially for success. Clearly sign and say 'finished' when you have got to the end each time.
- Always praise for 'good waiting' and 'good looking/listening'
- Slowly build up the repertoire of games that your child feels confident in and keep it interesting.
- Slowly build the number of children included in the turn taking games.