

Turn-Taking

Turn-taking sets the stage for future interaction. Children need to understand taking turns for use in later conversations with others. Practicing turn-taking teaches the child the rules and forms the basis for their interactions. Turn-taking can be:

Physical: i.e. reaching out, pointing, gifting/offering, looking away

Non-Verbal: i.e. eye contact and facial expressions

Verbal or Vocalizing: i.e. laughing, crying, production of speech sounds or words.

Tips & Tricks!

Child Led Play: match your level of language to your child. This may also be imitation of the expressions, sounds and noises your child makes during the course of the activity. Follow your child's interests and "turn-in" their activities. Allow turn-taking to be natural. Observe for appropriate teachable moments.

Wait: After your turn. Give your child a chance to respond. They may take a bit longer but that is alright! Allow them to process and answer. *take less time if your child has difficulty waiting for you

Cue: To allow your child to know it is their turn use cues. These cues can be as simple as an expectant eye contact, pointing to objects you reference, or gestures. In cases, you may have to bring objects closer to model.

Communication temptation: just before proceeding with activities, you can have objects of interests within sight but difficult enough to not be reached by the child. Offer different motivating choices. This allows for situations where your child learns to initiate conversation.

Label: With excitement you can comment with labels of your child's gestures, sounds and actions. This encourages their behaviour and maintains the interaction.

Turn-Taking Language

Always ask politely!

Try to ask the child playing with the toys if they are finished. If not ask them when done playing to, politely, give the toy.

i.e. I can see you are enjoying the toy. Can you let the other child waiting when you are done playing with the toy?

Turn-Taking vs Sharing

Interaction maintenance is not sharing.

All children have the right to play. A child ends their turn when they are done with the activity or toy. Sharing forces the child to give up the toy.