

TURN TAKING

Turn taking is an important skill for your child to learn. At first, children learn to take turns in play. Later, children understand how to take turns “talking” in interactions. Turn taking helps increase a child’s attention span, and promotes eye contact.

Take turns by:

- Setting a limited number of turns that you expect your child to take at first (e.g., place two blocks on the tower before he/she leaves)
- Labelling turns from your child’s perspective, (e.g., “My turn” and “Mommy’s turn.”)
- Using phrases such as, “One more block” and “Blocks are all done.”
- Increasing the number of turns you expect your child to take, based on how he/she is responding to the activity
- Taking your turn quickly to keep your child’s interest

Activity Examples for turn taking:

Activity	Making It Interactive	Using Words to Label
ball	Play catch, roll ball back and forth, throw ball in a box	ball, throw, in, bounce, catch
blocks	Build a tower together, take blocks off one at a time	block, on, off, fall down
puzzle	Put together a puzzle one piece at a time	animal/object names on puzzle piece, more, put in, take out

