

Ages 3-4

1. Turn Taking

Next week we will encourage and create plans to increase your child's participation in taking turns during games, conversations and when play with toys.

2. Listening

One of the most critical skills needed in conversations and play is knowing how to listen. Next week we plan on encouraging your child to listen using his/her whole body.

3. Following and Giving Peers Directions

In play kids constantly give each other directions and take directions from each other. Next week we are going to expand our playtime to include "Trading Games," and also Giving each other directions.

Turn Taking, Listen and Following Directions Home



At some times involve your child in taking turns with games, conversations, and sharing toys. Did you know, your daily routine includes many opportunities for turn taking? In fact, almost anything you do with your child can be a chance to practice turn taking.

Remember the following rules:

- Be sure to alternate which one of you is doing the activity.
- Keep talking about what you're each doing during the activity.
- Follow your child's interest.
- Use whatever toy your child is interested in playing with to start a conversation.
- Start by commenting on what she/he is doing with the toy. When it's your turn, you can ask you to say something like, "Your turn (but don't push if your child is not ready to say it). You can just say it and before you know it your child will eventually repeat. Remember she/he is watching to see what you are doing.
- Help prepare your child for turn-taking by giving him opportunities to practice waiting. For example, play "stop and go" games at the park, with toy cars, or in the pool. The more comfortable your child is with the concept of waiting and self-control, the more successful he will be with taking turns. Celebrate successes.
- Encourage your child with positive language when you see your child waiting during a difficult situation or taking turns with a friend. You can say something like, "You are waiting for a turn on the swing. Waiting can be hard. You are doing it! High five!" or "I love the way you and Ben took turns using your special car. I bet you feel really proud!"

Simple Listening games such as "Red Light Green Light" is great in encouraging listening through play. Another fun game that works is "Mother May I." If you have never played any of these games, below are two websites with information on how to play the above games.

<http://www.grandparents.com/grandkids/activities-games-and-crafts/mother-may-i>

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/games/redlightgreenlight.html>



Encourage children to communicate through play : Innovative Therapy Services

Please share your ideas and thoughts with me at ussom@pediatricspeech.com.

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