

Turn-Taking

What is turn-taking?

Turn-taking is an important skill for children to develop in order to effectively participate in social communications. Turn-taking isn't a natural skill for any child, yet it is a life skill we need for social success in all environments.

Autistic children and young people may have differences with appreciating the feelings of others or tolerating waiting times. This makes turn-taking difficult.

Specifically teaching turn-taking and offering plenty of practice to give children opportunities to successfully play with peers, is helpful with this.

Simple Turn-taking ideas

Here are a few ideas, starting with very simple games...

- Take turns dropping a ball down a tube
- Take turns blowing bubbles
- Take turns rolling a car down a ramp
- Take turns building a tower
- Take turns playing peep-o with a scarf
- Take turns banging a drum
- Take turns bouncing a ball

Blue Wait Card

Use of a **Blue** Wait card can assist in turn-taking activities.

Present the card along with a verbal direction such as "Wait" or "You are waiting". When the child no longer needs to wait, remove the card and tell the child "Good waiting, now your turn".



WAIT



More interactive turn-taking

More interactive turn-taking activities involve the child acknowledging your part in a game and playing with you. This can be much harder and is advisable to work in a low arousal space with little distraction.

Here are a few ideas...

- Take turns bouncing a ball
- Push a car to the child and wait for them to push it back
- Kick, throw or roll a ball to the child and wait for them to return it to you
- Hit a balloon back and forth between you
- Take turns drawing around each others hands and feet
- Take turns to pour a drink and pretend to drink a cup of tea

Peer turn-taking

When you feel you can introduce a peer for turn-taking, try some of the below ideas...

- Take turns, turning pages and lifting flaps of a book
- Take turns to go down a slide
- Take turns in a singing game where one child sits in the middle
- Take turns playing simple card games like snap
- Take turns using the mouse on a computer
- Take turns doing sorting activities
- Take turns threading beads on to a string
- Take turns placing pieces into a jigsaw puzzle

