

## Play and Early Conversation // Turn Taking

The following games are fun ways to teach early turn taking:

- Encourage the child to take turns by repeating his or her own actions or sounds (such as making a funny noise at each other, rolling a ball or pushing a car down a ramp)
- Pause to encourage the child to anticipate another person's actions in familiar routines. Start with a small pause, continuing to make eye contact or maybe using a gesture to show you are pausing but are going to continue.

Some activities for early turn taking games:

- Take turns to move trains
- Take turns to blow or pop bubbles
- Take turns to roll a ball or cars towards each other
- Take turns to roll a ball or push a car down a ramp
- Take turns to post a shape in a post box or place a piece of jigsaw puzzle
- Take turns to roll a ball to knock down skittles
- Take turns to add a brick to a tower
- Take turns on play equipment



If the child has difficulty including you or taking turns when playing with toys, his most interactive times may be during games you play together without toys. Some 'people games' you could try are:

- Peek a boo
- Tickling each other
- Making funny faces or funny noises, at each other or in a mirror
- Repeating an action, such as jumping or waving

Whenever you play the game say the same thing at the beginning, for example 'Let's play swinging' or 'let's play tickles', and use a sign or gesture for 'finished' at the end of the game.

You can find some more ideas to develop early play and conversation skills in the Communication Station video here: <http://www.nhselect2.org.uk/slt/slt01.php>