

Teaching Turn Taking

Barnet EYSEND

This resource has been developed by members of the
Barnet EYSEND Advisory Team

Teaching Turn Taking: Definition



Definition:

When two or more people take turns to do something, they do it **one after the other** several times in a row.

Teaching Turn Taking: Targets

Some sample Turn Taking targets for children in Early Years

Target: To engage in an highly motivating activity e.g. a bubble activity, for a minute, 3 times across the nursery session

Target: To take turns with an adult in a highly motivating activity in a distraction-free environment for 2 turns each

Target: To take turns with another child in a highly motivating activity for 2 turns each with adult support

Target: To accept sharing a resource with another person, 3 out of 5 times during the session

Target: To take turns with another child in a play situation for 2 turns each

Target: To take part in a turn taking game in a small group until its completion

Teaching Turn Taking: Strategies



Use simple language “Your turn, my turn”

Use simple activities

Visual support – Turn taking board



Short waiting times at first

Specific praise – “good waiting”, “good looking”

Ensure child is focused on the other person’s turns

Involve another child with good turn taking skills

Start in a distraction free environment



Teaching Turn Taking: Activities

Taking turns with sounds

- Copy the sounds the child makes
- Join in with the child's vocalisations or movements
- Always give the child time to process what is happening



Taking Turns using singing

- Hat song: '.....has the hat on, hat on hat on,has the hat on, pass the hat to
- Mirror song: 'Look in the mirror and who can you see. You can seelooking at you' Then pass the mirror to another child and repeat

Taking turns with instruments

- Using musical instruments start shaking, tapping or banging an instrument and then stop giving the child a chance to imitate you

To support turn taking

- Use language - 'Your turn, my turn'
- Use visuals – photo board, 3,2,1 strip
- Use Makaton signing



Taking turns with games/at play time

- Fishing game
- Building a tower – taking it in turns to add a brick
- Inset puzzle – take it in turns to replace the pieces
- Tidying up – take it in turns to put the toys away in a bag or box
- Ball/car run
- Roll a ball or car backwards and forwards

Taking turns with water

- When the child is playing with water, splash the water and then wait to see if the child does it. If they do, you then copy and do it again
- Use simple cups and containers to pour the water, then hand the container to the child and encourage them to imitate you and have a turn

