

## Speech and Language Support Sheet 9

# Turn-Taking

Interaction is a two-way activity. During interaction we take lots of turns; this may be through words, gestures or body language. Many group activities and games involve turn taking. It is important for children to learn how to take turns in order to develop good communication skills and be able to interact and have fun with others.

To start with you may need to help your child to work out whose turn it is when playing games e.g. “Mummy’s turn”, “Daddy’s turn”, “and your turn”. Try to increase the number of times you are able to have another turn. Gradually increase the number of people who are taking turns.

Try to find 5-10 minutes in the day to have special time to work on turn taking.

**Remember to turn off the television, phones and other devices.**

**Here are some ideas of activities to help encourage turn-taking.**

**Tower Building:** Build a tower of bricks. Take turns to add bricks to the tower. Have fun knocking it over.

**Rolling Games:** Roll a ball or car across to each other. Increase the amount of time your child will sit to take turns.

**People Games (hide and seek / tickles / peekaboo)** – Take turns to be the chaser or tickler. Occasionally, wait to see if your child initiates their turn.

**Games:** Take turns whilst playing with toys e.g. posting games, puzzles, fishing, and skittles.



**Sharing time together and playing simple games will really help your child to develop their turn taking skills.**

**You can contact the clinic on 0208 296 4140 if you want further advice and support.**

Together with you, in your local community