

PALS

Social Skills Program

Playing and learning to socialise

Parent Information

Session 3

This week's skill:

Taking Turns at Play



Many conflicts between young children occur when two children want to play with the same toy. This can cause friction, anger and fighting. It is important that children develop the skill of taking turns for two reasons. The first is that taking turns is a positive solution to a number of problems that occur between children.

The second reason is that children who have difficulty taking turns may be rejected as playmates by other children. Taking turns is an important skill for maintaining friendships and therefore a skill that needs to be supported and encouraged.

What your child learnt this week

In this session your child learnt that taking turns means that one person *at a time* plays with a certain toy. The other person needs to wait until it is his or her turn. Your child learnt how to ask for a turn in an appropriate way, for example:

'Joe, can I have a turn please?'

The group also learnt that the person who is waiting for a turn could watch quietly or find something else to do.



Taking turns at play
occurs in all good
friendships.

Supporting this skill at home

- Encourage your child to take turns.
'Joseph, when you're playing with Patrick on the slippery dip, what do you do so that you both get a go?'
'Gemma, I'd like you to take turns with Lisa when you are playing with the ball.'
- Notice when your child takes turns or waits for a turn, such as a turn on the swings, watching a video or throwing and catching a ball, and use labelled praise.
'David, it was great that you waited for Anna to have a turn on the slippery dip before you had your turn.'
'Lisa, thank you for letting Peter have the truck. That's good turn-taking.'
'Simon, well done for taking turns when you and Peter were using the bucket.'
- Play board games, card games like Uno or computer games with your child which involve taking turns.
- Prompt your child to ask other children for a turn.
'Tom, you could say, "James, can I have a turn?"'
- Praise your child when he or she asks for a turn without adult help.
'Ben, you asked James for a turn on your own, well done!'
- For new or popular toys which only one child at a time can play with, such as some computer games, you may need to use a timer to ensure turn-taking and promote the concept of fairness.



There are plenty of opportunities for children to practice taking turns.