



How will my baby learn to take turns?



Taking turns is an important social skill and needs lots of practice in everyday activities to learn!

This skill is practised with your baby, but is usually understood better when your child is a toddler.

It is a really helpful skill when trying to resolve a conflict.

“My turn, your turn” can help stop fights!

- With your baby, start by using the simple terminology (with their name) **“my turn, Amy’s turn”** in the everyday activities around home. Activities such as rolling balls, holding a book, taking a piece of fruit off a plate, playing a musical instrument and similar are great for turn taking.
- **Make a game out of some activities** – such as posting blocks or pegs into a container – and try “my turn, Amy’s turn”. You might have to be very quick to get in your turn while your baby is learning this skill.
- Toddlers should then be able to develop this skill more easily when it has been practiced when they were a baby. **Always encourage your child with praise when they are waiting** as “waiting” is a difficult skill to learn. For example: “You are a good boy (or girl) for waiting!”
- If your child has a longer time to wait for their turn (such as when waiting in a game or waiting for a turn on a toy), try counting so that your child knows there is an end to the waiting time. Only count 1 to 10 for a toddler.
- Don’t expect that your child will have all the skills after the first go – **give your child lots of opportunity to practise** (using ball games, taking turns on play equipment or with toys that are shared), lots of praise for all their attempts, and give yourself lots of time to allow the practise!

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