

Preschool Pyramid Model

Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning



SEFEL/PPM Family Newsletter

Friendship Skills: Taking Turns

Social Emotional Development

Taking turns is an important social skill that promotes healthy social interactions. This skill is necessary when it comes to developing friendships and playing games. Turn-taking is a skill that children must be taught and given many opportunities to practice.

Playtime is one of many opportunities that allow your child to practice taking turns. Play can take place with children or adults. As your child engages in play, it will be important to encourage your child when they use their newly learned skill.



How to Teach Your Child to Take Turns

Modeling

Demonstrate the desired skill while describing what you are doing. For example, take turns doing activities such as stacking blocks. As you stack the blocks, pass a block to your child and say, "Look, it's your turn to stack the block and my turn to wait."

Playing Games

Use games to teach your child to wait for a turn. Outside games, such as catch or kickball, are ideal games to practice taking turns. Board games are also a great way to teach preschool children to wait for a turn.

Providing Acknowledgement

Provide acknowledgement by saying, "You passed the toy car to your brother; - now it's his turn!" "Look he's smiling because you are taking turns."

Resource Highlights

For Families

[Taking Turns \(English\)](#)

[Taking Turns \(Spanish\)](#)

For Children

[Sesame Street - Ernie and Bert Take Turns](#)

SEFEL/PPM Book Nook

Share and Take Turns by Cheri Meiners

It's My Turn by David Bedford

Little Blue Truck Leads the Way by Alice Schertle

Classroom Connections

We have been using the "taking turns" 2-sided visual in the classroom to help students with this concept. The card faces the person whose turn it is while they are in the process of "going," and the "wait" side (with a hand visual) faces the student who is waiting. The card reverses to indicate the other person's turn.

Community Connections

Check out Home Depot's website to get ideas for Kid's Workshop Projects and Activities!

Tips & Ideas

- *Timer:* Use a timer to track activities that involve taking turns. The timer will serve as a reminder that your turn has ended and it is the next person's turn. For longer time periods, remember to provide a warning by counting down before the timer sounds. This will support your child by preparing him/her for the next person's turn.
- *Language:* Use simple language to describe turn taking: "My turn...you wait", "now your turn." If your child is not familiar with the terms "my" or "your" you can use names. For example, "Mommy's turn" or "Ethan's turn."

"Sharing on demand" interrupts play, erodes parent-child trust and teaches false generosity. Take turns instead."

-Heather Shumaker

Author of *It's Ok Not to Share*