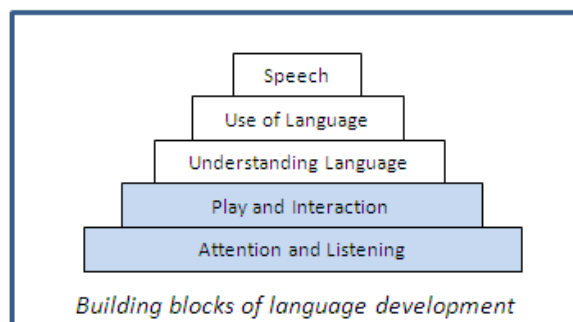


Taking Turns



A conversation is when people take it in turns to talk and listen. We talk because we want to share our thoughts with another person. So learning to share and take turns is an important part of learning to communicate. Learning to take turns in play helps children to learn how to take turns in conversation. It also helps them to play cooperatively with other children and learn to wait while another person has a turn.

Ideas to develop turn taking

- Take turns to make gestures, sounds or words, for example if your child makes a sound or gesture, copy it.
- Play simple turn taking games like rolling a ball between you, jumping or taking turns to bang a musical instrument.
- Take turns in day to day activities, e.g. at mealtimes, getting dressed, bathtime.



Things to remember...

- ✓ Leave **time** for your child to respond.
- ✓ Get down on the **same level**.
- ✓ Be **face to face** with your child.
- ✓ Show you are **interested** in your child's response, however small this may be.
- ✓ Give a **verbal prompt** showing whose turn is next, e.g. 'Mummy's turn, Ben's turn'.
- ✓ You may need to give a **physical prompt** to take their turn, e.g. guiding their hand.
- ✓ Give a **visual prompt**, e.g. pointing to whose turn it is.

These early turn taking activities will help children to practise their turn taking skills.

Remember children love repetition, so do not worry about doing the same activity over and over.

