# TAKING TURNS

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME

**HOW IT HELPS**

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. 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.

**TOP TIPS**

* 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
* Say whose turn it is 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
* Show whose turn it is e.g. pointing to whose turn it is
* Children love repetition so do not worry about doing the same activity over and over

**IDEAS FOR PLAY**

Take turns to make gestures, sounds or words, for example if you child makes a sound or gesture, copy it.

Play simple turn taking games:

* Rolling a ball between you
* Jumping
* Banging a musical instrument
* Putting a brick on a tower

Take turns in day to day activities:

* Bathtime- take turns blowing the bubbles or splashing
* Cooking the dinner- take turns stirring or adding ingredients

