



Teach Strategy Asking for a Turn



1

Identify times during your day when you can include opportunities for your child to take turns (ex: with a toy, on the swings).

Start by providing your child with an item they like, but isn't their favorite, for a few minutes.

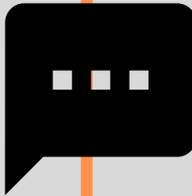


2

After a few minutes, tell your child "It's my turn," model giving the item using physical guidance, and play with the toy yourself.

Play with the toy for 1 min (it can be helpful to set a timer), then prompt your child to ask for a turn by saying "if you want a turn you can say, 'my turn.'"

If your child asks for a turn before the allotted time is up say, "you can have the toy in 1 min" while holding the item out of reach.



3

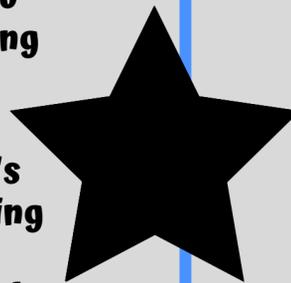
- If your child waits the allotted time (ex: 1 min) and appropriately asks for a turn, provide positive descriptive feedback and give them the item.
- If your child does not ask or asks inappropriately (ex: yelling), model the desired communication (ex: saying "my turn" or signing "please").
- If your child begins to engage in challenging behavior, stay calm and avoid attending to the behavior.



4

Repeat this process several times throughout the day in new routines (ex: playing, eating dinner, bed time) until you notice your child independently requesting a turn after the allotted time.

It is important to comply with your child's requests for a turn while they are learning this skill. This helps them to understand that asking for a turn can meet their needs, rather than challenging behavior.

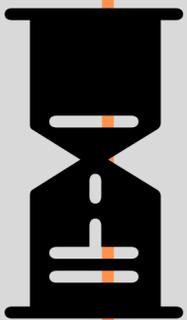


5

Once your child appropriately asks for a turn often, you can explain that there are times they to wait for a turn (ex: if another child says no).

Practicing asking for a turn with other children will help your child to gain fluency with this skill while you are there to help.

If another child refuses to share, you might ask them if you can set a timer (ex: for 1 min). That way each child can take a turn with the toy or activity. If this doesn't work, suggest trading or encourage your child to play with another item with you.



Helpful Hints!

- Create a visual of "taking turns" to help your child remember it easily. Point to it when you prompt your child to ask for a turn.
- Remember, this is new! Stay close during play times with other children so you can offer help as needed.
- Taking turns with favorite items or during favorite activities is difficult. Practice taking turns with less preferred toys or activities until your child is comfortable sharing items or activities.



For more information on how to teach your child to take turns, [click here](#).

