



IES Grant #
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Teach Strategy Take turns

Sometimes children use challenging behavior to get a favorite toy or because they want something that someone else has. Use these steps to teach them to take turns and ask for what they want instead of using challenging behavior!



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Identify times during your day when you can include opportunities for your child to take turns (ex: with a toy, on the swings). They can be taking turns with you, or with a sibling or a friend!

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

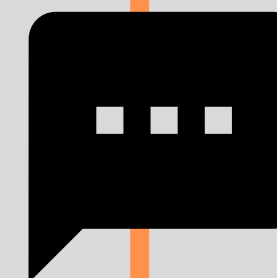


2

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, please.'"

If your child asks for a turn before the allotted time is up say, "You can have the toy in 1 min" while continuing to play with it.



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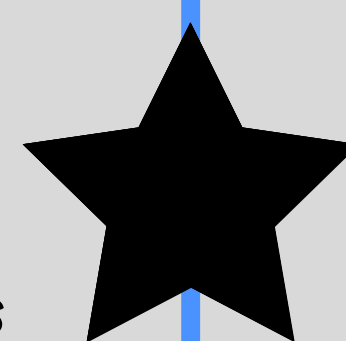
- If your child waits for you to play, and appropriately asks for a turn, provide lots of positive descriptive feedback and let them take a turn with the toy.
- If your child does not ask or asks inappropriately (ex: yelling), model the way you'd like them to ask again.
- If your child begins to engage in challenging behavior, stay calm and avoid attending to the behavior.



4

Repeat this process several times throughout the day during different activities and with different toys, until you notice your child asking for a turn independently and without engaging in challenging behavior

It is important to comply with your child's requests for a turn as often as you can while they are learning this skill. This helps them to understand to ask for what they want, rather than using challenging behavior.

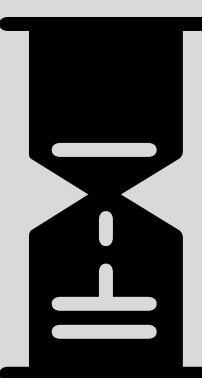


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Once your child appropriately waits while you play, and asks for a turn by themselves, you can explain that there are times they might not get a turn (ex: if another child says no).

Gradually and slowly increase the time that your child is waiting for their turn as they get better at this skill. For example, increase from 1min to 2min to 3min to 5min to 10min as they get better at waiting, and as they get older!

Practicing asking for a turn with other children will help your child to learn with this skill while you are there to help!



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.
- Stay close during play times with other children so you can offer help as needed.
- Taking turns with favorite things 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 new skills, [click here](#).

