

Attention and Listening 2c

Turn-taking

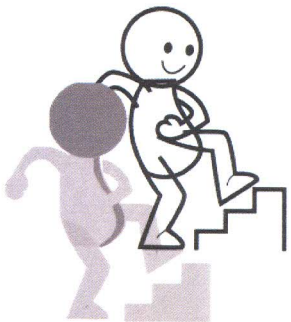


Why is this important?

An important communication skill in its own right, turn-taking is fun and interactive and will develop children's attention and listening skills towards the next level. Children need to learn to wait while another person has a turn, yet remain focused on the task.

What to do

- Play a simple turn-taking game like rolling a ball between you. Other ideas could include rolling a car along the floor, taking turns banging a musical instrument/ noisy toy, putting a shape in a shape sorter, working a pop up toy, etc. Try to choose a high-interest activity.
- When the child understands the game, see if he/she will wait for 'Ready, steady, go' before taking a turn.



Step up

- Increase the length of the wait between turns, either by taking longer to say 'Ready, steady ... go' or by playing turn-taking games where each turn takes a little longer.
- Increase the range of turn-taking games you play together.

Step down

- Gently hold hands to encourage the child wait for his/her turn.
- Play games where the turns come rapidly and the wait is short.

