

Turntaking

Turntaking is the back-and-forth interaction needed to have a conversation. It's like playing tennis; each player needs to take turns hitting the ball. If somebody doesn't take a turn, the game stops.

Tips on turntaking:

- Let your child start the interaction or conversation with an action, word, or sound. Respond by modeling a sound, word, or phrase.
- Pause and look at your child, and wait for a response. This waiting is critical; if you don't pause, your child may not understand you expect a response, and the conversation will stop.
- Continue for several turns or as long as your child is interested in the topic.
- Imitate what your child has said to keep the turntaking going; vary your voice by speaking louder or slower to keep your child's attention.
- Repeat words and phrases frequently; your child needs to hear them more than once to learn.
- Use a combination of words, phrases, and short sentences. Do not leave out words such as "a" or "the."
- Do not correct the child's sound or word use errors; just model the correct words as part of your conversation.

