

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



Turn taking Games

Engaging in simple turn taking games helps your baby learn and practice lots of new skills.

Did you know?

Even young babies can play turn taking communication games. This is a fundamental language and social skill that forms the foundation for most future development.

Add language

Babies learn that communication is a 2-way turn taking process through face to face interactions. Get close to eye level with your baby so you can watch and listen to each other carefully. Relax and observe your baby's facial expressions and gestures. Pick a sound or movement your baby makes and imitate it. Pause and wait 5-10 seconds for your baby to make any response. Imitate that response.

Keep taking several turns while your baby is still looking and interested.

Other development

As your baby develops you can take turns to copy actions on or with objects e.g. banging on a drum or pushing a car. You can make symbolic noises e.g. say "beep beep" when you push the car or "moo" with a toy cow.



Learning to imitate and copy is an important way young children learn lots of new skills.

Variations

Feeding times are important opportunities for turn taking and social interaction between your baby and you.

Because babies feed regularly this gives frequent practice at turn taking and close communication.

- Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa