

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

**Turn taking games give toddlers opportunities to learn important social and emotional skills.**

### Did you know?

Turn taking is a skill that needs to be learnt and practiced. Waiting and taking turns can be difficult for toddlers.

Building towers, blowing bubbles, pushing a car back and forward, and putting shapes in a shape sorter can all be made into good turn taking games for toddlers. Keep the turns short because toddlers only have short attention spans.

### Add language

Turn taking is a fundamental part of communicating. Use verbal cues to prompt turn taking e.g. "Mummy's turn", "Daddy's turn", "Josh's turn". Using names rather than the pronouns "my" and "your" is less confusing for young toddlers.

### Other development

Taking turns at copying each others actions e.g. clapping, stomping, jumping etc. is a fun way to learn about body awareness, and develop balance and gross motor skills.



### Variations

Turn taking can be built into just about any play activity e.g. taking turns on swings and slides; stacking blocks; ball play; scooping sand into a bucket; stirring the cake mix etc.

Turning the pages during book sharing is another good opportunity for turn taking.

- 📌 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](http://www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas) or visit [www.facebook.com/playgroupwa](https://www.facebook.com/playgroupwa)