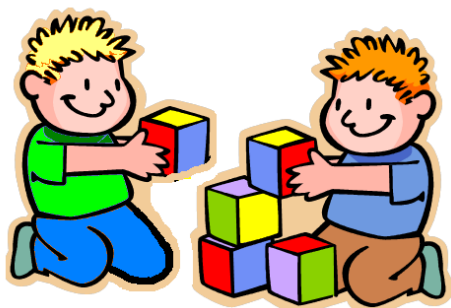


CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE



Ideas to encourage turn taking

Turn taking skills are really important and one of the foundations for successful communication. Young children typically respond to what another person does or says - this may be by looking, reaching or making a sound etc. Turn taking helps your child to be aware of other people and is the start of two way communication.

Ways to develop early turn taking skills;

1. When playing with your child, make sure you **pause** and **wait** to give them an opportunity to respond to you
2. Games that involve passing a toy to each other help to develop turn taking, e.g. rolling a ball forwards and backwards, pushing a car to each other etc. You can model language too, "my turn, your turn"
3. Try to involve yourself in your child's play, for example if your child is playing with blocks you could get your own blocks and play alongside them. If they are ready you can take a turn to put a block on their tower
4. Play any games without toys your child enjoys, for example peekaboo, tickles, blowing raspberries, chase. Pause and wait for your child to take their turn, remember their turn might be a look, a smile, a movement or a sound. When they respond then take your next turn.

For more information visit www.alderhey.nhs.uk or talk to your Speech and Language Therapist.

Speech and Language Therapy Department (Sefton)
Netherton HC (0151 247 6109) Houghton St, Southport (01704 395884)