

Your Turn

Primary Objectives

3a. Balances needs and rights of self and others

Why It's Important

Learning to share may seem to be one of the biggest challenges that young children face. Supporting your child in her efforts and encouraging her to think of others will help her play well with her peers and enhance her social and emotional development.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Encourage your child to develop sharing rules for her toys. When she has friends over or is playing with siblings, help them notice that there is only one (or a few) of a certain toy, and that they will need to figure out a way to share so everyone gets a turn with the toy. For example, show them how to use a timer such as an hourglass or kitchen timer. Help them learn that when the timer runs out, that means it is someone else's turn to explore the new object or toy.
2. Look for opportunities to model turn-taking behavior by playing games such as "I Spy" or "Follow the Leader." Give each participant a turn to be the leader of the game.
3. When on the playground, remind your child when someone is waiting for a turn to use the equipment she is using.
4. Comment when you see your child displaying appropriate sharing behavior with others. *I noticed that you were enjoying playing your drum, but when Carrie asked you if she could have a turn, you handed the drum to her. That was a thoughtful thing for you to do and you made Carrie very happy.*