



Stepping Out 6

This week we are going to look at some ideas for helping your child to develop the sharing and turn taking skills that will make school life easier for them.

Young children are very “centred” - they find it hard to see the world from anyone else’s point of view just yet. Often, when they say “So and So won’t share with me,” what they really mean is that the other child won’t immediately give them what they want! This can also make it challenging for them to let another child have a go with something they want themselves. Although in time this becomes easier for them, there are lots of things we can do to help the process along.



Schools and nurseries often use a visual timer to encourage children to share and take turns with favourite toys or resources. Children like the clear structure of this and soon become adept at regulating turn taking themselves in this way.



Using a digital timer works just as well if your child recognises the numbers, or the timer on a phone.

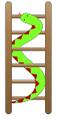


Ball games are a great way of developing turn taking skills and your child’s confidence that if they give something away, they can get it back - throwing and catching, passing a football back and forth, rolling a ball between a group seated on the ground - these are all great for developing turn taking.



Developing social vocabulary

When playing with your child, model the vocabulary that will help them with sharing and turn taking: “Can I go next?” “Is it my turn now?” “I’ll let you have a turn when I’ve finished...here you are” “You can have a go, then give it back to me” “Shall we share it?” “Let’s play with it together.” “Please....Thank you.”



Turn taking games

There is nothing that your child will enjoy more than spending time with you. Playing games is a great way to spend time together, provide learning opportunities and satisfy your child's competitive side.

Playing board games is also an ideal time to introduce your child to rules, taking turns and the feeling of winning and losing.

Through these games your child will learn and develop many skills - shape/colour recognition, grouping, reasoning, hand-eye coordination, dexterity and critical thinking.

Top tips

Keep the game simple

Explain the rules

Have a practice run

Play in teams to help your child understand how to play

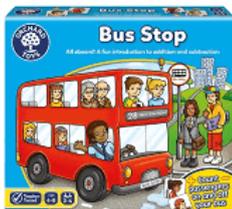
Don't be tempted to allow your child to win every time

If your child doesn't like losing, set the tone **before** you play - "Remember, you might not win this time, but we can always play again."

There are some great educational games available from Orchard games.

https://www.orchardtoys.com/dept/orchard-toys-learning-educational-games_d002.htm

We hope to have some available for you to borrow from The Place very soon!



And a lovely book about sharing...**Share!**

Please get in touch with any concerns or questions!

Joanna and Sue