How to Teach Turn-Taking

Visual Aid

Introduction:

Children with social language delays often have difficulty taking turns and knowing whose turn it is during conversation or game play. This visual aid will help the child practice turn taking by making the concept less abstract.

Instructions:

1. Print out the picture on the following page and glue it to a card or sturdy piece of paper. Laminate it so it will last longer. Then, set up a game that requires everyone to take turns (and wait when it's not their turn).

2. Hand the "my turn" card to the first person. The card can sit in their lap or on the table next to them while it's their turn. Talk about whose turn it is and show the child that the person who is going now has the "my turn" card.

3. When it is the next person's turn, pass the card to whoever's turn it is. Have the person say "it's my turn" when they get the card. Keep doing this until the child understand the concept of whose turn it is.

4. Once the child starts to understand the concept, pause in between each turn and ask the child "whose turn is it?". You can do this after you pass the card at first so the child can use the card as a visual. Then, once the child gets better at this, you can take the card away and ask him before you give the card to the next person.

<u>Turn-Taking Practice</u>

We are working on teaching your child how to take turns. Use this picture as a visual of whose turn it is. Pass it around to the person whose turn it is so that it will remind your child. You can do this with just two people or with a whole group of people. At the beginning of each turn, pass the picture to the correct person and ask your child, "whose turn is it?". Your child should say "my turn", "your turn" or the name of the person whose turn it is ("Sally's turn"). If your child has trouble, remind him/her to look for the picture to see whose turn it is. Once your child gets better at this, you can try it without using the picture visual.

"It's my turn!"