

Is it My Turn Yet?: Ages 4-5

Turn taking activities will give your child an opportunity to:

- Practice letting others go first
- Learn what to do and maintain emotional balance while waiting for a turn
- Demonstrate the sequencing of “my turn, your turn”
- Practice how to ask for a turn

Ideas to try with your child:

- Play turn taking games like catch or Frisbee. Praise your child for her new found ability to wait and share.
- Play a building game with blocks or Lego toys. Encourage your child to take turns adding to the tower.
- Play simple card games like “Go Fish” or board games like Candyland. Use very specific language such as, “It’s my turn now, then it will be your turn.”
- Teach your child to solve simple problems—like who goes first—by playing a quick game of rock-paper-scissors.

If your child is struggling:

Try one of these ideas to help her wait her turn.

- Timer—using a sand timer or kitchen timer to help your child can see how much longer she has to wait.
- Counting—for a short wait time, have your child count to a specific number.

Going further:

Play a game of “Duck, Duck, Goose” or “Red Rover.” These are games that include larger groups of children and more waiting.

Point out to your child other times we take turns: in the grocery store, or at the bank, in the library.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012: “Wait for a turn without getting angry or grabbing.” Building Relationships, Ages 4-5, p.73*