

# My Turn, Your Turn

## Primary Objectives

3a. Balances needs and rights of self and others

## Why It's Important

When your child first enters school, he will begin to learn that other children have needs and desires, too. He might need adult guidance as he tries to understand the concepts of turn taking and sharing.

## Materials

Toys or games for your child to share with another child

## What You Do

1. Invite your child and a playmate to sit at a table where you have placed a marble run toy or some puzzles. Try to find a toy that motivates and interests your child. Give half of the materials (marbles, puzzle pieces) to him, and the other half to the other child. Let them take turns, and continue to remind them whose turn it is.
2. If your child steps out of turn, touch his arm gently and ask, *Do you remember whose turn it is?* Use words of encouragement and enthusiasm whenever he waits for his turn. *You are waiting very patiently for a turn to add a puzzle piece.* After a few activities that require turn-taking or sharing, he may begin to practice this on his own. Observe his progress and continue to encourage his efforts.
3. When you take your child outside to play, observe how he takes turns in a different environment. You can reinforce the turn taking with swings, riding equipment, or sand toys. He might need reminders to wait for his turn. *In two minutes, it will be your turn on the bicycle.* If another child wants a turn, you might say, *Caroline would like a turn. Why don't you swing for two more minutes, and then it will be her turn.*