What is turn taking?

Turn taking is a foundation skill for speech, language and communication development.

Turn taking starts to develop from when you are born, with young babies taking notice of their care givers talking and communicating with them. Young babies will often start to copy back sounds and noises they hear their care givers use and listen to see if the care giver repeats them again.

Turn taking is not just about sharing toys – this is a more advanced product of turn taking. Turn taking starts through simple play and routines and builds up to more advanced skills of being able to have conversations with others, waiting and sharing.

These are some of the skills that turn taking can help develop:

Having conversations

Being able to wait

Building relationships

Playing games

Listening and being aware of others

Please visit the Commtap site for activities to support development of turn taking at different developmental levels.