

R.O.C.K. While You Play

Use the R.O.C.K. guidelines when you and your child play together with toys to create repetitive, structured routines in which your child knows what turns he can take and when to take them.

R. Repeat What You Say and Do at the Beginning, Middle and End of the Game

Hold up the toy or the toy package and say the name of the game the same way every time you play. Even if your child initiates the play, try to label the play consistently by saying something like "Lego" or "Play puzzle."



O. Offer Opportunities for Your Child to Take a Turn

Plan when you will offer your child a turn by breaking the play into parts. There should be things for your child to do and say when the play begins, during the play and when the play ends. The number and kinds of turns your child takes will vary according to his stage and whether he is learning how to play or working on communication goals.

C. Cue Your Child to Take His Turn

Use the cues that your child needs (explicit and natural), fading them out as quickly as possible. When you teach your child how to play with toys, your most frequently used cue will be to give physical help.

K. Keep It Fun! Keep It Going!

If you approach play as a child would, being lively and animated, your child will be more likely to approach play in the same way. Your child's willingness to become involved in the play will determine how much he will learn.