



# Teacher's Guide: Making Connections with My Child



## What is This?

This resource supports families in strengthening relationships with their infants or toddlers through various turn-taking opportunities.



## How Do I Use This?

### 1. Review the resource:

Read and understand the topic of the handout.



### 2. Share classroom strategies:

Fill out the third row in the grey area on page two, by writing how you initiate social interactions with children in your classroom. You can also individualize the resource by writing child-specific examples.



### 3. Help family members reflect and try:

Share the handout with families (via newsletter, daily note, email, text, or an app for virtual communications). The handout will help families reflect on if they are providing turn-taking opportunities in their routines at home and try new strategies. Encourage families to share their ideas.



### 4. Engage:

Using the poll (attached at the end of this resource), create and post a large visual (e.g., bar graph on a chart paper; using dot markers or stickers to indicate practices) at the entrance of your classroom. Encourage families to participate in the poll during drop-off/pick-up. As families participate in the poll, check in with families about their relationship building practices at home.



### 5. Share:

Take a picture of the completed poll and share the poll results with families through the preferred way of communication.



# Family Handout: Making Connections with My Child



Building positive relationships with your child in the early years becomes a foundation for their ability to explore their worlds and build relationships with others. Providing opportunities to initiate social interactions and exchanges throughout the day is critical in building relationships.

## Examples of Turn-Taking Activities in the Classroom

- ▶ Singing a greeting song and calling out children’s names.
- ▶ Copying a child’s actions and taking turns, saying “Teacher’s turn” and “Jenna’s turn” during block-play.

For \_\_\_\_\_ (child’s name)  
we take turns when \_\_\_\_\_.



## What Does Your Interaction Look Like at Home?

Have you tried these turn-taking activities at home?

**Tried  
(Check)**

**Tried  
(Check)**



**Bath:** Imitate your child’s voice or movement. Wait for 5 seconds for a response. Imitate again and repeat!



**Diapering:** Point to your child’s belly button or touch your child’s toes. You can say “Here’s your belly button!” or “these are your toes.” Then pause, imitate the child’s response or talk about it. Take several turns!



**Meal:** Ask “More?” as your child finishes a bite. Offer more (“Yes, More!”) when the child responds with gestures or vocalizations.



**Play:** Take turns with puzzles/ blocks. Pause and wait for a response. Respond to the child’s gaze or gesture by taking turn again.



**Music:** Start dancing to music together. Hold the child while dancing and wait for a response. Start dancing again and repeat!



**Play:** Try peek-a-boo and take several turns. Encourage the child to copy you, too!

# Family Engagement Activity: “Making Connections with My Child” Poll

## What opportunities have you tried at home?

Place an X on a routine where you tried turn-taking with your child.

List any other routines where you tried turn-taking in the question-mark box!

Turn-taking while dancing



Turn-taking with blocks/puzzles



Meal time turn-taking



Bath time turn-taking



Turn-taking during potty time



In what other routines did you try turn-taking?



For the virtually shared poll, you may text, email, or use the communication app to respond.