



Social Communication: Social Interaction 3 [SI3]

**Child plays back-and-forth games
with objects or actions**

Purpose

- To help your child engage with you through sharing objects and copying your actions.
- To help your child to take turns with you playing with objects or playing games.

Description

This occurs when the child and another person are engaged in a game that involves some type of back-and-forth exchange with either actions or objects. Participation in a reciprocal game shows that the child is beginning to understand the back-and-forth nature of interactions.

- Child plays peek-a-boo with another person, first with adult hiding his/her face, and then child hiding his/her face
- Child participates in back-and-forth tickling game, first being tickled by the adult, and then tickling the adult
- Child rolls ball back-and-forth with a play partner

Activities

- *Bath Time:* Use toys such as a boat, animals, or bath crayons, and encourage your child to imitate what you do and then take turns.
- *Playtime:* Perform actions, sounds, or gestures in front of a mirror. After your turn, wait to see if your child imitates you and continue taking turns. You could also try to roll a ball to your child and encourage your child to roll the ball back to you. Adding an additional person, like a sibling or another adult, may help your child to see how to do it.



- *Reading Time:* At the library or at home, use a book that incorporates sounds, such as animal noises. While reading, make the noise and wait to see if your child imitates the noise. Or take turns “reading” lines or pages, especially with a familiar book that has good rhymes.

Strategies

- *Play back and forth with sounds* – make sounds that your child can make and wait for him/her to make the sound back. You can use a toy microphone, cardboard tube, or a plastic cup to make the sound louder or more interesting.
- *Roll preferred toys/balls to your child and wait with anticipation* – pause after rolling a ball or toy to your child and use faces and gestures to show that you are expecting your child to roll it back
- *Imitate your child’s actions and communications* – copy what your child is saying/doing, pause, and encourage him/her to do the action again, and then go back and forth taking turns

Suggested Toys

- Play phone
- Ball
- Toy foods
- Puppets

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult