

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Getting Along with Others



Taking turns and sharing are part of learning to get along with others - an important skill for everyone! In order to take turns and share, children also need to know how to listen and respond to others and use self-control.

**Learning to get along with others supports the following Lincoln County Schools kindergarten readiness skills:**

- I can take turns.
- I can share toys and materials with my peers.

Here are some ideas to help your child learn to get along with others.

### Learning to listen and respond

- Model using good manners in a variety of situations. Give your child lots of opportunities to hear and use polite words and phrases such as please, thank you, you're welcome and excuse me.
- Practice attentive listening with your child. Encourage your child to...
  - Look at the person who is speaking and think about what the person is saying.
  - Reply to what the person says or ask questions if he/she doesn't understand.
  - Try his/her best to do what's asked or offer another idea that might be helpful.

A great way to practice these skills is to use puppets or toys to act out various situations. Your child might also enjoy "playing school." You can take turns being the student and the teacher. Listen carefully to what your child says and does – it can help you understand and address misunderstandings or fears.

### Learning to take turns and exercise self-control

- Provide opportunities for your child to talk and play with other children, such meeting friends at the park, going to a library story time, playing with friends or relatives at family events, or going to church or community events.
- Introduce your child to simple board, card or outdoor games that require taking turns.
- Show your child how to ask for and take turns with toys or other items.
  - Encourage your child to ask, "May I have a turn, please?" If the other child says no, brainstorm possible options such as: deciding to find or do something else; asking the other child "Could you tell me when you're done?"; creating a waiting list; or using a timer.
  - If someone wants your child to share, practice different ways to respond kindly. For instance, if your child isn't ready to give an item up, she/he could explain "I'm still using it, but I'll give it to you when I'm done."
- Play "Red Light/Green Light," an active game where children have to quickly control their actions.
  - Designate a starting line and a finish line. One person is the leader and stands at the finish line. The rest of the players stand at the starting line.
  - When the leader calls "Green Light," everyone runs forward. When the leader calls "Red Light" everyone has to freeze.
  - The leader continues to call red light/green light until one of the runners crosses the finish line. That person becomes the new leader.