



The Power of Organized Play

Taking Turns - Help your child learn to wait patiently while another child plays, teach ways to identify who goes first (e.g., using the largest number on a die, alphabetical order)

Letting Others Go First/Choose Game - Helping children decide who goes first, using self-talk when you do not get to go first, such as "I'll go first next time," or "we take turns choosing/going first."

Accepting Not Winning - Using self-talk, such as "it's okay, I can try again next time," or "sometimes I win, sometimes someone else wins."

Asking Someone to Play - Approaching others, using words to ask "Can I play with you," or "Would you like to play with me?"

Using Kind Words/Encouragement - Using phrases such as "I like how you _____", "Awesome turn!", or "Nice game, thanks for playing!" to support a positive play experience. Focus on the fun and enjoyment of the activity or game.

Managing Conflict - Use words to communicate your feelings, let others know when you do not like something using kind words (e.g., "I don't want to play right now," "I feel _____ when _____.")

Flexible Thinking - Understanding that others play games differently, establishing rules before you play a game, compromising when deciding what to play, remind others of rules politely

Activities to practice these skills at home:

- ❖ Play board games
- ❖ Engage your child in cooperative/imaginative play (e.g., kitchen play, trains, house, cafe/restaurant, dolls/superheroes)
- ❖ Schedule/facilitate play dates with other children

- ❖ Explore new play activities (e.g., learn new games, visit new places)
- ❖ Outdoor games (e.g., tag, hide-and-seek, races)