

Illustrated Card Sets — Quarter 3

Two new topics for Connection & Community, each fully explained before a single card, then a print-and-prop card sequence.

Document 8 of 12

Introduced in Weeks 30 and 33 of your Quarter 3 Roadmap

What Does "Turn-Taking With a Peer" Actually Involve?

Before a single card, let's make sure this idea is completely clear — nothing here is assumed.



WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY MEAN?

Turn-taking with a peer means two children alternating actions in a game — rolling a ball back and forth, stacking blocks one at a time — where each child waits for the other before acting. It's harder than turn-taking with a parent, because a peer is far less naturally patient or predictable than an adult.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DOING THIS?

The purpose is to practise the structure of "my turn, then your turn" in a simple, physical game, before expecting it to work in the much more complex, unpredictable world of open-ended play.



WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

We hope your child begins to genuinely enjoy playing alongside another child in a structured way, building the confidence that later supports less structured friendships and play.



HOW DOES THIS ACTUALLY HELP THE CHILD?

Structured, peer-focused practice like this is linked to real increases in positive interaction between children with additional needs and their peers ^[21]

BAMENDA, CAMEROON

Two cousins, ages 5 and 6, learned to roll a ball back and forth with an adult clearly saying whose turn it was each time. Within two weeks, they were rolling it back and forth on their own, in the yard, with nobody narrating a single turn.

The Turn-Taking Game Sequence — Cards 1–4



THE TURN-TAKING GAME
SEQUENCE · STEP 1 OF 7

The Turn-Taking Game Sequence

A simple game turns an invisible social rule
into something visible.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE TURN-TAKING GAME
SEQUENCE · STEP 2 OF 7

**Choose a game with an obvious
physical turn signal (rolling a ball,
stacking blocks).**

*Why: An obvious physical signal makes "whose
turn it is" clear without needing words.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE TURN-TAKING GAME
SEQUENCE · STEP 3 OF 7

**Play together, narrating each turn out
loud clearly.**

*Why: Saying turns out loud makes the invisible
structure of the game visible to both children.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE TURN-TAKING GAME
SEQUENCE · STEP 4 OF 7

**Reduce your narration slowly as the
pattern becomes familiar.**

*Why: Fewer words tests whether the children are
starting to track turns themselves.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up

The Turn-Taking Game Sequence — Cards 5–7



THE TURN-TAKING GAME SEQUENCE · STEP 5 OF 7

Step back and let the children play with minimal involvement from you.

Why: Stepping back tests whether the pattern has become genuinely theirs.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up



THE TURN-TAKING GAME SEQUENCE · STEP 6 OF 7

Handle a "broken" turn calmly — reset without frustration.

Why: A broken turn is a completely normal part of real peer play, not a sign anything's wrong.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up



THE TURN-TAKING GAME SEQUENCE · STEP 7 OF 7

Two mistakes to avoid: choosing a game with unclear turns, and stepping in too quickly when a turn is missed.

Why: Both mistakes prevent the children from ever getting the chance to work it out themselves.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up

What Does It Mean to "Prep" a Community Outing?

Before a single card, let's make sure this idea is completely clear — nothing here is assumed.



WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY MEAN?

Prepping an outing means planning it out in advance — a short visual sequence of what will happen, a familiar calming object, and an agreed signal for needing to leave — rather than heading out and hoping for the best. It's the same idea as your full-day schedule template, applied to a single trip instead of a whole day.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DOING THIS?

The purpose is to remove as much unpredictability as realistically possible from a genuinely unpredictable environment — a market, a shop, a crowded place — before your child ever steps into it.



WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

We hope outings become something your family can do with real confidence, knowing you have a plan, a calming tool, and a clear way to leave early if needed, rather than avoiding community spaces out of fear of how they'll go.



HOW DOES THIS ACTUALLY HELP THE CHILD?

Visual preparation and predictable routines are a recognised, evidence-based way to reduce anxiety and support success in new or challenging environments ^[11]

KUMASI, GHANA

A mother used to avoid the market entirely because of how unpredictable it felt for her son. With a four-picture plan (car, market, buy rice, go home) walked through the night before, their first prepared trip lasted only ten minutes — and she counted it as a complete success.

The Community Outing

Prep Sequence — Cards 1–4



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP
SEQUENCE · STEP 1 OF 7

The Community Outing Prep Sequence

Preparation turns an unpredictable outing
into a plan your child can see coming.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP
SEQUENCE · STEP 2 OF 7

**Choose one specific outing and make a
short 4-5 step visual plan.**

*Why: A short, specific plan is easier to hold in
mind than a vague idea of the whole outing.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP
SEQUENCE · STEP 3 OF 7

**Walk through the visual plan together,
calmly, before the outing.**

*Why: Preparation happens in a calm moment, not
for the first time during the outing itself.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP
SEQUENCE · STEP 4 OF 7

Pack a small, familiar calm-tool bag.

*Why: A familiar object gives your child something
steady in an unfamiliar, busy environment.*

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line,
prop it up

The Community Outing

Prep Sequence — Cards 5–7



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP SEQUENCE · STEP 5 OF 7

Agree on a simple signal for "I need to leave."

Why: A pre-agreed signal lets your child communicate overwhelm before it becomes a public meltdown.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP SEQUENCE · STEP 6 OF 7

Go on the outing, and honour the leave-signal immediately if used.

Why: Honouring the signal builds trust that it actually works, making it more likely to be used calmly next time.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up



THE COMMUNITY OUTING PREP SEQUENCE · STEP 7 OF 7

Two mistakes to avoid: skipping the calm walkthrough, and treating an early exit as a failure.

Why: An early exit using the agreed plan is the plan working exactly as intended, not a setback.

Gentle Progress Family · Cut along the dashed line, prop it up

Sources for this guide: [11] Steinbrenner et al. (2020) · [21] Peer-mediated interventions systematic review (2021). Full list of references in the Start Here document.