

Roll the Ball

Roll a soft ball back and forth with your child and tell him he is taking turns.

You will be introducing your child to a simple game that requires cooperation and turn-taking.

Can you roll the ball to me?





Why this is important

With this game, you help your child understand that some things work better with a partner. He will learn that being a partner means you must give sometimes (roll) in order to get back (catch). Rolling a ball back and forth teaches a very easy form of cooperation. Knowing how to cooperate will prepare your child to enter into more complex kinds of play with other children later on.

What you do

- Sit with your toddler on the floor facing each other with your legs spread and your legs close to his so that the ball cannot escape.
- Roll the ball slowly so that he is sure to catch it.
- Talk to him about rolling it back. He may not want to roll the ball back to you. *Roll the ball to me so I can roll it to you again!* If he still refuses, gently take the ball and quickly roll it to him. You may have to repeat this process several times before he understands that he is not losing the ball when he rolls it away.
- Respond positively about the game you are now playing together when he rolls the ball back to you. *You rolled the ball to me and I rolled it back to you. We're taking turns!*

Ready to move on?

As he gains better control of the ball, sit farther apart to challenge him. If your child stands up and throws the ball toward you, he may be ready to try an easy throwing game.

Let's read together!

Ten Black Dots
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