

Early Years Inclusion Team

People Games

In people games children learn to:

- **Pay attention:**
- Smile at you, look at you.
- **Take a turn:**
- e.g. Throw the blanket off.
- **Give you a chance to take a turn:**
- e.g. Give you the blanket.
- **Continue taking turns:**
- e.g. Ask for more.
- **Start the game:**
- e.g. Take blanket out of cupboard.
- **End the game:**
- Say “finished”.
- **Start a new game**



In people games children aren't distracted by toys. They focus on the adult. The back and forth nature of people games is similar to that of a conversation, only with fewer words.

How to play people games:

Start the game in the same way each time i.e. finding a way to signal the game will start with objects, actions and words e.g. Say, 'Let's play balloon' and hold up the balloon, or bring down a blanket and saying 'rolling'. Repeat the game in exactly the same way each time, the same words, actions and pauses and finish in the same way. Repeat the game often with different people.

Offer opportunities for your child to take his/her turn. Pause so your child has an opportunity to take their turn. Plan when you will offer your child a turn. This needs to be the same turn in the same place each time. Plan what turn your child can take e.g. will he wiggle to request 'more', make a sound or say a word, and pause to allow it to happen.

Cue your child to take his/her turn – Once you have decided what your child's turn will be you may need to give obvious clues about when he should take it. Give him/her models or demonstrations of what s/he should do. You can cue your child by looking expectantly, leaning towards him/her and perhaps in taking breath.

Keep it fun and keep it going – be lively and animated and keep the interaction going as long as possible. Most children like games that involve some form of physical play.

Ideas for people games:

Tickling



Peek a boo/ hiding games



Chase



Singing favourite songs



Spinning, rocking or swinging games



Up and down games



Horsey ride

