It's important to give your child opportunities to learn social behaviors. Joining in play with your child can be as simple as sitting beside your child and copying his or her actions. You can also learn positive social emotional behaviors by playing turn-my-turn interactions such as rolling a ball back and forth; joining in play with your child and following his lead; his favorite toy or activity? Do you respond quickly and positively when he tells you what to do during social play. For example: the teacher led the game with Riley and other children. He smiled and laughed and wanted to try it over and over. Since then Riley's mom has tried to sit and play with him next to other children, but Riley cries for his mom to pick him up. After five minutes, Riley knows she likes to interact with you? Does she smile and laugh. What does she do to let you know she likes to interact with you? Does she ask for more, or lead you by the hand to a favorite toy or activity? Do you respond quickly and positively to her? Be sure to match your behaviors such as saying "my turn" during a play activity. Remember that a parent's timely and positive response is a powerful motivator for a child.

Riley is a soft-spoken toddler who prefers to explore toys by himself. He spends most of the day with his mother looking at books, coloring, or dancing along to music. He points to objects he likes or asks for more. His mother has been taking him to a Mommy and Me playgroup twice a week. The teacher and Riley's mom have concerns about his participation during the sessions. He does not participate in activities with the other children and positively to her? Be sure to match your behaviors such as saying "my turn" during a play activity; or laughing and saying "again" during an activity. You should model the behavior for your child to learn social behaviors such as taking turns. Sometimes takes lots of practice for your child to learn social behaviors such as taking turns. You should model the behavior for your child many times throughout the everyday activities. Remember that a parent’s timely and positive response is a powerful motivator for a child.

You’ll know the practice is working if …

● Your child enjoys participating in social play activities like pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo.

● Your child initiates social interactions with others.

● Your child participates in turn-taking activities.

A Quick Peak

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