



## Rolling a ball

This activity helps babies and children learn about taking turns.

### You will need

A group of parents, babies and children of any age!  
A ball

### Start with a wow fact

**“Having the chance to take a turn is one of the most important ways your child can start to learn to talk.”**

### Remember

When babies and children are having fun it is a great time for learning.  
So remember, you only have to play this for as long as the children are enjoying it.

### How to play

- Sit in a circle with babies on their parent's knee.
- Supporting the babies, help them to face the middle of the circle.
- Older children can sit next to their parents with their legs crossed.
- One grown-up starts the game by saying one of the children's names.
- The same grown-up should wait for the baby or child to notice them and look in their direction.
- Once they have seen them, roll the ball carefully over to the baby or child.
- Parents can help babies to reach and touch the ball that's rolling towards them.
- Older children can practice getting it themselves, this will help their coordination skills.
- They then take turns saying another child's name and rolling the ball to them.
- Help the older children to have a chance choosing a name, this can be really fun for siblings.
- Repeat until each child has had a turn to respond.

### How does this help?

Turn taking games help babies and children to learn:

- To listen and respond when someone speaks
- The foundations of conversations

### For parents to try themselves

Encourage parents to try turn-taking games at home.

Turn-taking games can become part of everyday activities, parents can try

- Taking turns to splash at bath time
- Singing their favourite songs and leaving pauses between the lines
- Building towers together and taking turns to knock them down

**Parents and carers can find more activities  
and resources to try at home by visiting  
[www.bit.ly/tinyhappypeople](http://www.bit.ly/tinyhappypeople)  
[@thp\\_pilot](https://www.instagram.com/thp_pilot)**