

How-To

TEMPLATE SERIES

TURN CARDS

TURN TAKING TOOL FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES



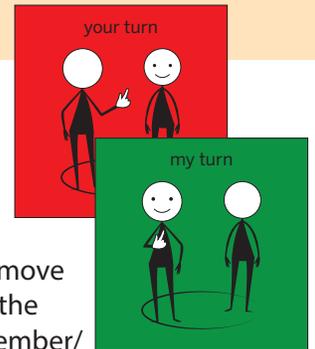
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Taking turns when playing a game or participating in a group or collaborative activity may be challenging for individuals with ASD and related disorders. Using the *My Turn-Your Turn* cards helps clarify expectations and provide additional visual structure to prompt the individual, when they are waiting for and when it is their turn. Use *My Turn-Your Turn* cards in combination with other tools, like social narratives and visual schedules to set expectations and provide support in dealing with more complex activities and social situations.

My Turn-Your Turn cards are small (generally 3"x3") cards that have been printed on both sides or glued back to back for easier use. Each participant in a game or a group activity should have a card in front of them. Start the activity with all the cards turned to red ("Your Turn"). Once the first person to move is identified, he or she needs to turn their card to green ("My Turn"). Once the move is made, the card should be turned back to red ("Your Turn!") and the next person's card should be on green. With each move, every member/player should check if their cards stay the same or need to be turned.



SCENARIOS FOR USING TURN CARDS:



One of the most common situations when you may use turn cards is doing activities aimed at the development of social skills, like **turn taking/waiting, functional play scripts, or similar social interactions**.

Turn cards slow down the game and prevent players from rushing to take their own turn without waiting for others by providing a visual support to prompt each successive turn. Use the setup described above with all the players starting with the red card facing up ("Your Turn") to indicate the wait time.

If the players are not familiar with the use of turn cards, model the appropriate behavior by either being the first one to turn your card to green ("My Turn") or helping players do that. Use the least intrusive prompting level needed to support the players. Remember to give positive praise to reinforce the desired behaviors (e.g., *I love how you are waiting; Great job taking turns*).

Additional supports for game playing may include visual steps (visual activity schedule) that explain how to engage in an activity and social narratives that walk an individual through socially challenging situations throughout the game or activity.

Similarly, turn cards can be effectively used in academic **collaborative or group activities**, where individuals have to share tools (e.g., cooking utensils), media (e.g., canvas for an art project), or to take turns completing steps of a project. Use the same setup as with a game activity. Make sure that the visual activity steps are available and accessible to the student. Use positive praise to reinforce the desired behavior.

Note: Alternating turns (teacher-student) to complete an activity using turn cards can be an effective way to speed up its completion or ensure the success of the student, if this is important for an individual to end on success. You may want to ensure though that the individual can complete the steps he or she may end up doing when it is their turn.

Also, check out...

How-To Series
Kid's Corner Series
Life with ASD Series
Academia Series
Strategy in Practice
e-Learning Options
Practical Pointers for Families,
Educators, Medical Providers,
and Individuals with ASD

Stay in touch via our listserv
and Learning Connection!



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Reminder: This is only one example.

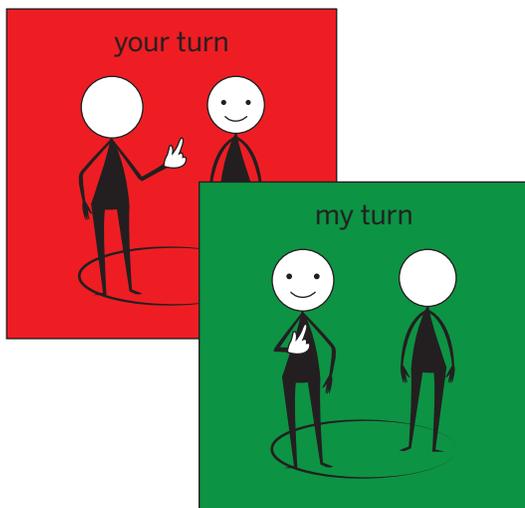
This template may need to be individualized to meet the particular needs of a person with ASD!

HOW TO PUT TURN CARDS TOGETHER

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ✕ Cards (p. 3, 4, or 5)
- ✕ Scissors
- ✕ Glue
- ✕ Laminate and laminator

MAKING INDIVIDUAL TURN CARDS



- 1.** Cut out cards (use any of the options).
- 2.** Glue the backs of the cards together so that the assembled card has a red side and a green side.
- 3.** Laminate for durability.

HOW-TO VIDEO: MODELING OF USE OF TURN TAKING CARDS

How-To video on how to use turn taking cards is available on our website.



OTHER OPTIONS

You can request a bulk delivery of *My Turn-Your Turn* cards for your classroom, school, or community organization. The cards are produced by the participants of the HANDSmade™, program made available through the HANDS in Autism® that fosters increased vocational and independent living skills within a supported employment setting for individuals with ASD and related disabilities. For more information, check out the *Bookstore* on our website www.HANDSInAutism.iupui.edu to learn more.

