

“Your Turn”: A Strategy to Increase Social Interactions with Peers

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The purpose of this experiment was to examine the effectiveness of the “Your Turn” turn-taking strategy in increasing social interactions of children with speech and language impairments with peers. The strategy consists of training each participant to initiate turn-taking by saying “your turn” as he/she hands a toy or object to another child. The participants included six children enrolled in the Language Acquisition Preschool with ages ranging from 3-5. Each child received biweekly one-on-one training sessions with the investigators for six weeks, for a total of twelve training sessions. Each training session had an average of 15 turn-taking opportunities. We used the SICS (Social Interaction Coding System) to gather pre-data before the training sessions, post-data after the training sessions, and once more the following semester to measure retention of the strategy. The results indicated an increase in the number of interactions for each participant. There was some variation in the length of interactions. But most importantly, we noticed a shift from interactions primarily with adults to interactions with peers. From these results we were able to conclude that the strategy was effective, however because we lacked a control group, the increase could have been due to maturity or other factors. The fact that all children increased their number of interactions is a positive sign that this strategy should be continued and researched further