

## Wait card



### **When to use:**

- Use in situations where your child must wait in line, must wait for an item, or must wait for an activity.
- Use to teach turn-taking skills during games, shared play, or class activities.

### **How to use:**

1. Present the card along with a verbal direction such as “Wait”, or “You are waiting”.
2. When your child no longer needs to wait, remove the card and tell them “Well done waiting. Now it’s your turn’.

**\*\*\* If waiting is a new skills or very challenging to your child you may have to practice waiting before playing a turn taking game\*\*\***

### **Teaching Using a Wait Card**

1. Start by selecting a preferred item or activity, not their most favourite item, that you will use to practice waiting with (e.g.- a toy that can only be played with by one person at a time).
2. Place the wait card in front of your child and say “Wait” or “You are waiting.” After placing the card, interact with the item or otherwise withhold it for a brief period of time. Initially, that time may be as little as a few seconds.
3. While your child is waiting, comment “You are waiting.”
4. At the end of the waiting period, remove the card and immediately provide the activity or item they were waiting for and say ‘Good waiting, now it’s your turn’
5. The wait time can be extended, little by little, over time.

Tips:

- Use when your child is not able to access an item immediately. “Yes, you may use the computer, but you need to wait 5 minutes “use a timer e.g. kitchen timer or phone (or “wait until reading is over” or “wait until Jose is finished”).
- Only use the wait card if you can give the desired item.

**How to make a wait card:**

- Printer version:
  - Template below print off
  - Cut out the oval
  - Glue it on to something more stable like cardboard (from a delivery box) then cut the cardboard to oval shape.
  - If possible use sticky back paper on the front and back to make it last longer
- No Printer:
  - Cut out an oval out of paper
  - in the middle write ‘wait’,
  - Glue it on to something more stable like cardboard (from a delivery box) then cut the cardboard to oval shape.
  - If possible use sticky back paper on the front and back to make it last longer.

TEMPLATE:

