

Game: My Turn

Best for: Toddlers aged 12-24 months

Social-emotional skills + concepts: [Sharing](#), along with saying "Please" and "Thank you"

Materials needed: Any household object your child likes—a toy or blanket, or something "grown-up" your child likes to hold, like your phone or the remote.

Process: Say to your child "My turn please" with your hand placed out in front, ready to receive the object. Gently guide your child's hand to place the object into your hand, providing positive praise and a "Thank you" as soon as they do. Then, say "Your turn" and hand them back the object. Practice it a few times. This can be done throughout the day with any item. Don't forget to always say "Please" and "Thank you."

Game: Feelings Hop

Best for: Age 2+

Social-emotional skills + concepts: Identifying what feelings look like, what causes certain feelings and even what to do about them.

Materials needed: Create large print outs of faces making different emotions and tape them to the floor.

Process: Call out a feeling—"frustration!" or "joy!"—and encourage your child to hop to the face that shows that feeling. Once they are standing on the feeling card, encourage them to make the face, and explain why a person might feel that way: "Sometimes we get frustrated when we have to wait." Take the game to the next level by asking the child how they can help a friend who may be feeling this emotion. Play until all feelings are identified.

Game: Working Together

Best for: Age 2+

Social-emotional skills + concepts: Turn-taking and patience, as well as working together. In addition, this game helps with identifying colors and shapes.

Materials needed: A set of blocks and a set of index cards with images that match the colors and the shapes of the blocks.

Process: You and your child take turns drawing a card and finding the matching block. Then, work together to build a tower based on the cards that are drawn. See how high the tower can go. If it falls over, it's okay—just try again!

Game: Listening Course

Best for: Age 2.5+

Social-emotional skills + concepts: Listening skills.

Materials needed: Pillows, stuffed animals, hula-hoops and other toys and items from around the house that you can use to set up an obstacle course.

Process: Encourage your child to listen to your directions as they move through an obstacle course or maze you both create. For example, you can say: "Jump into the hula-hoop and then step out of the hula-hoop, turn right and step over the teddy bear." Change up the obstacle course to enhance listening skills.