

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Teaching negotiation

By the age of four, most children have the language skills to communicate what they want but are still highly driven by their emotions and are at the very early stages of learning how to negotiate.

Here are some top tips to help children's early development of negotiation skills.

1. Support children with emotional regulation so they are able to increasingly calm themselves and think logically about how to negotiate a way forward
2. Create rules and expectations collaboratively with children such as listening to each other, taking turns and respecting each other's opinions
3. Provide time, space and open-ended materials for children to work together and problem solve in different ways, providing opportunity for them to develop sharing and negotiation skills
4. Provide resources that promote cooperative play between two children such as a wheeled toy two children can ride
5. Model key skills of negotiation in your everyday interactions, e.g. "I have an idea, we could share the conkers into three separate containers"
6. Introduce problems that children can help to solve, e.g. one child has no playdough, how can the children solve the problem to ensure everyone can play with the playdough?
7. In difficult situations, encourage children to discuss what compromise they think would work and why, listening to each others ideas and reasoning. Provide positive feedback where you notice children's thoughtfulness towards each other.



NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Online course: [Exemplary Practice with 3-5 Year Olds](#)

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna