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## Turnabouts – An Expressive Language Strategy for Parents

Turn taking in an adult conversation is far different than that with a child. With a younger child, caregivers rely heavily on questioning to elicit further verbalizations from the youngster. One variant of this technique is a turnabout, an utterance that both responds to what the child says, but in turn, requires a response.

Here's an example:

Child: We had pizza.  
 Adult: Pizza! Hmmm, I bet you went to a \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child: BIRTHDAY PARTY!  
 Adult: I love birthday parties. Whose party was it?

There are several types of turnabouts, as illustrated in the below table.

TYPE	EXAMPLE
Wh – Question	How did that happen?
Yes/No Question	Does he scratch a lot?
Tag Question	I bet he doesn't like fleas, does he?
Clarification General  Specific Confirming	What? Huh? What does your dog have? Fleas? Does he have fleas?
Correction	Fleas!
I-wonder Statement	I wonder where he got them?
Fill-in	Fleas make you ...
Expansion with (yes/no) turnabout	Your dog has fleas. Did you give him a bath?
Extension with (wh-) turnabout	My dog had fleas once. Yukk! What did you do?