

# Participates in Group Activities

## What does “Participates in Group Activities” mean?

This skill is about a child contributing to a large-group activity, such as when the teacher reads a story to the whole class during Read Aloud time. A child that shows this skill is able to engage in the activity and joins in when the group is asked to do something. For example, when the teacher is reading to the whole class and asks a question about the book, a child who participates raises their hand and offers an answer to the question. When children take part in group activities, they learn from others and help others learn. This skill is important because it shows that a child is developing confidence in large-group settings.

## TIPS for FAMILIES

### How can I explain this skill to my child?

Let your child know that everyone has a voice and deserves to be heard. Tell them that sometimes when you are around a lot of people, your voice can get lost. It can be hard or scary to speak up when there are so many other voices. Let your child know that if they don't participate, no one will hear their voice and all the important things they have to say. Remind your child that their voice matters!

### What are some things I can do to help my child learn this skill?

#### TIP1

**Build confidence.** A key part of participating in group activities is confidence. One way to help your child build confidence is by giving them chances to be a leader at home. Here are some ways to support your child's confidence and encourage them to become a leader:

- Give your child the chance to speak for themselves in large groups or when talking to new people. For example, when ordering food, give your child some options of what they can get to eat and then explain how they will order their food. It can be tempting to just speak for your child in these situations, but try to look for times when your child can speak up and gain confidence.
- Play games with your child in which they can be the leader. For example, you could play Follow the Leader or Simon Says and let your child be the one to give you instructions.
- You can play imaginative games with your child where they are the leader. For example, you can play “school” and allow your child to be the teacher while you play the student.

- Give your child simple responsibilities at home. For example, assign your child the role of “light monitor,” which makes them responsible for checking that the lights in the home are turned off before leaving for the day. You can also give your child tasks to manage while doing errands. For example, at the grocery store, tell your child, “Pick out five green apples and put them into this bag.”

## TIP2

**Find opportunities for your child to practice participating in group activities.** Give your child opportunities to join in large group conversations. For example, if the family is eating a meal together, ask each person to share what they had the most fun doing that day or what they are going to do later that day. After each person shares their thoughts, you can make a positive comment such as, “It sounds like you had fun during art time. I like painting too!” This helps to show that you respect your child’s voice and value what they have to say.

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### How can I encourage my child when I see them trying to learn this skill?

**Acknowledge your child for their efforts!** For example, tell your child, “Nicholas, aren’t you proud of yourself for speaking to the waitress and ordering your dinner on your own?” or “Marta, it was great that you shared with us about your day at school!”

To learn more about the tips and where they came from, please visit our references page: [ckphilly.org/citations](http://ckphilly.org/citations)