



# Swap-A-Toy Date

**This does take some planning and time commitment in terms of organising, but it's well worth the effort and introduces ideas of recycling and charity rather than rubbish creation and waste.**

In discussion with the parents of your children's friends, and parents within your family, set aside a specific date, time and location for the swap to take place. You may wish to turn this into a social event, getting people to bring a plate or hosting it yourself.

Prior to the date, children must rummage through their unused/unwanted toys, perhaps things they have grown out of playing with, or things they may have duplicates of... On the day of the swap they need to have these toys with them ready, clean and in good, working order.

For every item you bring along, you are allowed to take one back in return ie if you take five unwanted items to the swap, you are entitled to choose five new ones. The more people participate in the swap, the greater the variety of toys available and the more likely your children are to find something new that they desire. (You may wish to place a monetary value or limit on the toys prior to swap day).

There are many ways you could organise the swap itself. People could have to bring toys along by a specific time earlier in the day, allowing the host to display the items attractively on tables or benches out in the garden or in a garage or carport. This will create a frenzy of competition as children aim for the most sought after stock! Or, children could take it in turns to choose a new item in exchange for their old one, or the swapping itself could be turned into a game with the most sought after items as prizes.

It may be that your child finds nothing at the swap that they desire. This is also fine. Ensure that your child understands that the swap is as much about giving and bringing joy to someone else as it is about getting new things.

All unwanted stock at the end of the swap can be gathered up and donated to charity. Reiterate the importance of passing things on and helping those less fortunate. This in itself, ensures a positive outcome to the swap and, if nothing else, means that you managed to get rid of some clutter!



*That's the story*  
kiwi stories for kiwi kids