

SHARING

It is a job of a parent to develop a sense of generosity in their children

Children should be encouraged to share time, space and possessions from the earliest possible age.



Sharing is an important element in forming friendships and is a prerequisite for living and working effectively with others. It is a vital skill for social and academic success at school.

Parents can stimulate children to share by establishing a cooperative atmosphere at home and providing plenty of opportunities to interact with others. There are many situations in family-life that can be used to foster cooperation and sharing.

Only children can have difficulty sharing unless parents provide plenty of opportunities to mix with children of their own age and make sure they don't always get what they want at home.

SOME IDEAS TO TEACH CHILDREN TO SHARE

- **When serving sandwiches, place them on a large plate for everyone to share.** Allow children to serve themselves from dishes at the meal table rather than put food on plates for them.
- **Use family discussions to teach** children to take it in turns speaking and listening to others, which are important social skills.
- **Provide games and toys for the whole family to share.** The rules of board and card games provide a good structure for children to follow.
- **Limit children's time at solitary activities** such as television and computers. Encourage interaction with other children through outdoor or indoor games.
- **Promote a sense of generosity** by encouraging children to swap or give away old toys.
- **Share television time** with other members of the family. Limit the number of televisions in the family.

Place the television in public spaces so family members have to negotiate its use.

- **Make it easy for children to learn to share.** Provide an opportunity for a child who has difficulty sharing to occasionally play with younger children or even toddlers. It is often hard to avoid sharing with younger children.

TALK ABOUT SHARING

When you are with your children talk to them about sharing.

Let them know that it is OK not to share sometimes, particularly their treasured possessions. Find out their concerns and discuss solutions. For instance, explain to a child who is reluctant to share that he or she should show the borrower how to take care of a toy.



Parenting *ideas*
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