

Beginning to Share

*This one is yours, and
this one is Robbie's.*



Notice and talk about all the ways your child is beginning to share.

Your talk will give him ideas and words to use later when he begins to form friendships with other children.

*Can you give
Robbie his banana?*



Why this is important

A toddler does not know how to take turns, divide snacks, or give away toys he wants. He must learn that sharing means giving freely by choice. He may not consistently behave generously for many years, but with practice he will learn early that sharing can be a pleasant experience. Encouraging your child to share feelings and objects with you provides your child with a pattern for later sharing ideas and materials with friends.

What you do

- Model sharing by being physically near when your child plays. Offer to let him park his small car on your knee, or let him hide a block in your pocket.
- Encourage him to share his toys with you by asking questions about them and touching them. If he offers it to you, thank him and hold the toy briefly before returning it to him.
- Help him practice sharing with others by giving him two of something. Tell him one is for him and the other is for a friend or family member. *This graham cracker is yours and this one is for Daddy. Can you give it to him?*
- Make each sharing experience a positive one by focusing on the generosity he shows and describing why it was good to share. *Thank you for sharing the graham crackers with Daddy. He was hungry, too, just like you.*

Another idea

Look for opportunities to share throughout your day together. Your child can pick wildflowers for a neighbor or offer a toy to a pet.

Let's read together!

How Kind!
by Mary Murphy