

This week's skill:

Sharing



While taking turns is when one child plays with a toy while the other child waits, sharing is when two or more children play with the same toy together. Many conflicts arise when young children refuse to share. Sharing is something which needs to be taught and encouraged.

Sharing is something that children learn best in situations with other children, so whenever possible arrange opportunities for your child to practice sharing with other children, such as friends, siblings or cousins.

What your child learnt this week

Your child learnt that sharing means everyone has a share of the materials or toys at the same time. Toys and resources, such as playdough, pencils, blocks, trains and cars, can be shared.

The children learnt that sharing is a friendly thing to do and helps everyone play together.



Children need to share resources as well as toys.

Supporting this skill at home

- Before your child enters a play situation remind him or her about sharing. Explain what sharing means and let your child know that this is a good way to play with friends.
'Kevin is here to play. Remember that it's a good thing to share your toys with Kevin. When you share, both you and Kevin play with the toys and you might even be able to make something together.'
- Use labelled praise when your child shares — even if he or she shares only small amounts.
'Thank you Anna for giving Jessica some blocks to play with. That's good sharing.'
- Help your child to ask to share toys.
'Michael, you could say, "Jamie, can I share your crayons please?"'
- Also praise your child if he or she asks to share another child's toys.
'You asked Jamie to share all by yourself. Well done!'
- Read books to your child which promote sharing, such as *How I Found a Friend* by Irina Hale, *Sally's Secret* by Shirley Hughes, *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister and *Not Fair, Won't Share* by Lindsey Gardiner.



Your child doesn't have to share everything he or she owns.

Special note:

It is important to recognise that your child may have special toys that he or she does not wish to share in case they get broken or are misused. If this is the case, ensure that these toys are not available when other children come to play, as it is often difficult for children to explain to others why certain toys are precious and not for sharing. This can prevent arguments and tantrums.

'Tim is coming over to play this afternoon. Let's pick some toys you can share with Tim. Are there any special toys you'd like to put away before he comes?'