

Sharing teaches a variety of skills, including compromising, taking turns, and coping with disappointment. Sharing is an important skill to establish and maintain social relationships. Review the tips below to see how you can help your child learn this skill.



## How You Can Help

1. Model the behavior—demonstrate sharing with your child and other members of your household.
2. Practice sharing and turn-taking by playing games. Use language such as, “You share the blue car with me, and I’ll share the yellow car with you.”
3. Identify sharing throughout the day, and point it out to your child. For example, “Those people are sharing an umbrella.”
4. Allow the child to keep special toys or items away from friends that come over to play. Make sure the toys stay hidden until after the guests leave.
5. Use a timer to allow the child to play with a toy for a certain number of minutes before sharing the toy with someone else. The other child is allowed the same amount of time with the toy before it goes back to the original child. This helps each child know that, even though they’re sharing, they will eventually get the toy back.
6. Positively reinforce sharing behavior with specific praise, such as, “Wow! You made Jack really happy when you gave him the blocks! I really like how you shared your toys.”
7. If you have two or more children at home, use bins with labels to identify which toys belong to a specific child and which toys are shared. For example, you could have one bin labeled “Sam’s toys,” another labeled “John’s toys,” and another labeled “Shared toys.”
8. Acknowledge that sharing can be difficult, but sharing is important to show that we care about others.