



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #62
SHARING IS CARING

HELLO PARENTS,

Sharing with others is an important skill, which your child will use throughout their lifetime. Everyday, we have many opportunities to share. We may share our food, homes, opinions and ideas, or even our cities with each other. When we share, we express empathy and consider the well-being of other people. Your child may be encouraged to share, and they will also learn that sometimes, sharing is not necessary. Nonetheless, sharing usually promotes your child's self-regulatory skills, turn taking abilities, and builds healthy social relationships. This newsletter will provide you with thoughtful activities that encourage the value of sharing.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

PASSING THE BALL

MATERIALS:

- Ball

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your infant on the floor, and position them facing you.
- Pass the ball to your infant, and encourage them to pass it back to you.
- Continue to pass the ball back and forth.

[Click here](#) to listen to a song about sharing.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

THE SHARING BASKET

MATERIALS:

- Medium sized basket
- Various toys and materials

DIRECTIONS:

- Encourage your child to put some of their favourite toys, into a basket. For example, a baby doll that they often play with, blocks, books etc.
- Place these items into the basket, and call this the sharing basket.
- Invite your child to share these materials with family members. For example, you may say: "I know that your sister loves to play with this doll, too! Let's share the doll, and play with her!"
- Tell your child that sometimes, we do not have to share. You may say: "If you do not want to share the doll, it is okay! We can play with something else!"
- Encourage your child to have fun, while sharing!

[Click here](#) to read, "Llama Llama, Time to Share" by Anna Dewdney.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SHOULD I SHARE MY ICE CREAM?

[Click here](#) to read, "Should I Share My Ice Cream?" by Mo Willems.

MATERIALS:

- 2 pieces of cardstock or beige construction paper
- Black marker · Ruler
- Tape · Plastic balls (medium size)

DIRECTIONS:

- Read, "Should I share My Ice Cream?" by Mo Willems.
- Once you have read this book, using your ruler and black marker, draw horizontal and vertical lines on the cardstock or construction paper. This will be the outside of your ice cream cone. Repeat this step on the second piece of paper.
- Roll the two pieces of paper into a cone shape. Make sure the opening is wide enough for your plastic balls to fit inside the cone.
- When you roll the pieces of construction paper or cardstock, secure the edges with tape. Now, you have two ice cream cones.
- Put a plastic ball inside one of the cones to serve as the ice cream. Encourage your child to share their ice cream with you by passing it from one cone to another.

[Click here](#) for more information.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

POTLUCK

MATERIALS:

- Various foods, put into bowls or on dishes
- Small water jug, filled with a beverage. For example, water.
- Cups
- Tongs/spoons

DIRECTIONS:

- Share in a family meal, with your child!
- Put the prepared food and jug on the table. Add tongs and spoons to each bowl or dish.
- Sit down with your child at the dinner table, and ask them if they would like to eat. If so, invite your child to share the food and drink together, with you.
- Place the food and jug near your child. Model sharing by offering them the food and drink. For example, you may say: "Would you like some cheese?" or "Would you like some water?"
- If your child is ready to eat, offer them the spoons/tongs or jug and encourage them to serve themselves.
- If your child requires assistance with serving, use the hand over hand technique. For example, when your child pours water into their glass, hold the handle of the water jug together, and help them pour the water.
- After your child has served themselves, ask them to share the food by passing it back to you. You may say: "Please pass the food to me! I am so hungry, and would like to eat, too!" Assist your child, as needed.
- Once your child has finished eating or drinking, continue sharing and offer them more food or drink. For example, you may say: "Would you like more food to eat?" or "Are you still thirsty? I can pass you the jug, and we can fill your cup with water!"
- Throughout conversation, use manners and words such as please, and thank-you.
- Enjoy sharing this delicious feast with your child.

[Click here](#) for sharable food recipes to cook with your children!

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

BUILD A CITY

MATERIALS:

- Bristol board · Construction paper · Coloured markers
- Scissors · Tape or glue

DIRECTIONS:

- A city is shared with all of its citizens, in a community. Consider this, and create a city plan.
- What makes a good city? Include these elements in your plans. For example: community parks, schools, doctor's offices, houses, banks, roads, sidewalks etc. Think about how these resources are shared, and valuable to the people who live in a city.
- Draw the city plan on the Bristol board. Cut shapes of buildings and houses from construction paper and glue it onto the Bristol board.
- If you are making this city with others, take turns adding to the Bristol board. Be creative! Share materials and ideas.
- Once you finished your city plan, you may give the city a name.

[Click here](#) for architecture books for children.

A TIP FOR TODAY

- **Model sharing for your child.** Often, your child may want to imitate what you are doing/your behaviour etc.
- **Discuss with your child how sharing makes them feel.** For example, ask them: "Does sharing with others make you feel happy? How do you think others feel when you share with them?"
- **It is best to not force your child to share.** Rather, create attitudes and an environment that encourages your child to want to share.
- **Have your child play games that involve working together and sharing.** For example, board games.
- **Use a clock or a timer for turn taking.** This will demonstrate equality when sharing.
- **Read books or sing songs about sharing.**