

TIP SHEET: **Sharing**

Ages Affected: 2–4 years old

Around this age children begin to get possessive of their things. They start using words like “gimme” and “mine.” This is the time to teach your child to share with others. Sharing is probably one of the most important lessons you can teach your child.

The signs that your child should learn to share:

Toddlers begin to learn about what belongs to them and can become very protective over their things. Children will grab, push or refuse to share with other children around them. This is a normal part of their development.

Children learn by example so don't forget, you are their best role model. If your child notices that you share with others, they are more likely to do the same.

Here are some tips to help teach your child to share with others:

- You must explain to your child why it is important to learn how to share. Remind her that she doesn't like it when other children don't share with her, so she should always share with others.
- Make it fun. Teach your child group games where everyone is playing together, for example, a puzzle.
- Act quickly when you see your child grabbing or pushing others. Take hold of your child's hand and remind them to say please and wait their turn.
- Praise him for good behavior when he shares with others.
- The concept of sharing a toy may not even have occurred to your child. Encourage her to take turns with the toy and reassure her that sharing isn't the same as giving away, and point out that if she shares toys with friends, they will share with her too.



- Teach your child to ask permission in a polite way when he wants to borrow things from others.
- Use the word share to describe what you're doing, and don't forget to teach him that feelings, ideas and stories can be shared too.
- If your child continues to grab things from other kids after being told not to, use quiet time. Tell your child what she has done wrong and explain that it's time for quiet time. Quiet time is when your child sits quietly in a chair or playpen without toys to think about what she has done wrong. Consider using one minute of quiet time for each year of your child's age—i.e., 3 minutes of quiet time for a 3-year-old.