

Sharing

Learning to share is an important part of growing up. Toddlers are just beginning to learn about ownership and can be possessive about their things. They may snatch, push another child away or refuse to share a favourite toy. Parents with two or more children may face sharing problems every day. Problems can also occur over sharing when other children visit your home or your toddler mixes with other children on outings.

Toddlers cannot see things from another person's point of view, so reasoning with them is not the best way to teach sharing.

Teach your child how to share by sharing things yourself with them, such as a bite of something you are eating, or letting them have a turn at something you are doing. When you are playing with your children, praise them for sharing with you and each other. If you can, try to catch your child when you can see they are about to snatch something or not share, stop them by taking their hand and saying "*say please*". Praise them when they do say it.

If you aren't able to catch your child before they snatch something then you will need to tell your child what to do. "*Sam, stop snatching the ball while Ann is playing with it.*" Tell them what they can do instead. "*Give it back to Ann and let her finish her turn please*". If your child doesn't do as you ask straight away then use a consequence. "*Sam you were asked to stop snatching. Anne can have the ball back and you will have to wait.*" Ignore any protests or complaints; simply carry out what you said.

If you want more ideas to support teaching children to share or on any other parenting advice please phone Brenda at the Kindergarten Association on 546 7683.