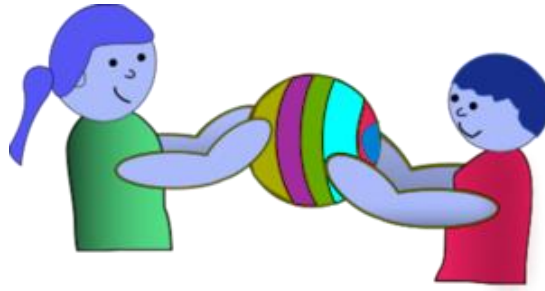


Sharing



Preschool Parenting Tip #1 - - -

Every month or so, we'll address a skill/topic/lesson for preschoolers and share how we approach it at school, and offer suggestions for ways you can work with your child at home. Feel free to suggest topics/skills/lessons of interest to you!

One of the most important lessons a child learns in Preschool is not math or reading - - - it's sharing! Our egocentric preschool aged children do not know what sharing means, so we model this behavior for them. We create natural sharing situations throughout the day and then comment positively.

Examples:

Rather than simply putting new books or toys on the shelves, we hold them up and say, "I think I will share these books/toys with you." Then give children the books or toys.

We place a box of Legos between 2 children and say, "I'll let you two share these Legos."

We sit down next to a student and ask, "Will you share these crayons with me? Now, we can both have fun together."

We do not want to teach children that sharing means losing what they have. If two children are fighting over a toy and the teacher says "You have to share," then takes the toy from the one who has it to give to the other child, that teaches that sharing is not a pleasant and desirable experience! Instead, we encourage activities that are more fun to do with someone else than alone, then verbalize how playing together is more fun. "Look how much fun we are having sharing the ball!"

Adapted from Simple Steps: Developmental Activities for Infants, Toddlers and Two-Year Olds, by Karen Miller.