

## Work Together Wednesday: Sharing is Caring!

Week of the Young Child  
AR Children's Week  
2016



Sharing may be hard to understand for young children. They may think you are taking something away or it won't be returned.

“Children who are able to share toys and materials often have more positive experiences interacting with peers. In turn, since having this skill allows them opportunities to practice and experience positive social interactions, they also begin to learn how to better handle situations when they don't want to share what they are playing with. As adults, we often expect young children to share without helping them understand what it means to do so.” (The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning , n.d).

Books are a great way to influence sharing! *I Can Share* By Karen Katz is a 'lift-the-flap' interactive book for toddlers and preschoolers.

Examples of activities that can be used while reading *I Can Share* :

- Read the story and let the toddlers participate by flipping the pages.
- Read the story and ask open ended questions like, “Can you show me how to share the box of crayons?” or “How would you share this shovel and bucket?”
- Make props to represent objects on the pages. Let the children demonstrate how to share.
- Sing a song that discusses sharing with friends. Don't have a song? Use a well known tune and make up your own words.

To the tune of “ Are you sleeping” (Frère Jacques)

*Are you sharing? Are you sharing?  
Yes, I am. Yes, I am*

*Sharing is caring. Sharing is caring.  
You're my friend, You're my friend*

Make sure to explain, *sharing is caring*. For better understanding, show them objects that should be shared. You can also make suggestions. For example, "Madison, let's go ask Jasmine if she wants to play catch with us." Sharing makes playtime fun with new friends and old!

Sharing is sometimes a big step. Sharing deserves practice, as well as, praise. When children are successful at making friends, they have opportunities to learn and practice many social skills such as cooperation, sharing, turn taking, problem solving, and conflict resolution. (Kemple, 2004).

Sharing is a very important part of social and emotional development. While reading books like *I Can Share*, they are able to turn pages, point and label pictures, talk about the story, predict what will happen next, learn new vocabulary skills, talk about their own experience, and even make up their own story! (The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning ,n.d).

For more sharing activities and ideas: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/booknook/share.pdf>

Author website: <http://www.karenkatz.com/index.html>

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for early

Learning:<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/index.html>

Kemple, K. M. (2004). *Let's be friends*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

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