

## That's Mine!

**S**ometimes I'm just minding my own business playing with a toy. Then my little brother comes over and grabs it right out of my hand. I get mad at him and take the toy back. Sometimes, I'm so mad I even hit him or push him down.

My parents get mad at me when I yell at, or hit, my little brother. They say things like, "Why don't you share with your brother? Why are you so selfish?" I don't get it! My little brother takes the toy I'm playing with and I get in trouble.

### **What I Want You to Know**

Like most kids my age, *I think almost everything belongs to me.* That's why I have a hard time sharing. I don't think



I should have to share toys, especially with my pesky little brother. If I do share, I want to decide when I do it. I don't like people taking things from me or pressuring me to share.

*It's tough to learn how to share. And it's tough to learn why I should share.*

Please be patient with me. It will take me years to learn how to share. Sometimes even adults have a hard time sharing.

## **Here's How You Can Help Me**

Try to understand what it's like for me to share. It's hard—especially if I am tired, hungry, or threatened by other children.

If I'm not in the mood to share, don't always force me or tell me that I have to. That teaches me that sharing is no fun. *I like to have some choices, and sometimes I will choose not to share.* Maybe you could distract the other child with a different toy or activity.

When I do share something with my brother or a friend, I sure like it when you notice that I shared. When I hear

you say, “Thank you for sharing your toys with your brother,” it makes me feel good. That helps me know that sharing is good. With some encouragement and help, I may be pretty good at sharing by the time I am 5 or 6.

Set a good example, too. I notice when you share with others. Like just the other day, you shared your dessert with me. “Wow! That must have been tough.” I also notice when you share with the neighbors and people like that.

Whether I'm in the mood to share or not, I want to know that you love me and that I'm okay. *If you help me feel loved, I will probably be more willing to share.*

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