SHARING & CARING

What is the meaning of sharing and caring? Commonly referred to as that "warm fuzzy feeling," caring is the kindness or love you have towards another individual. You can also use caring (as an adjective) to describe a person who acts in this warm and fuzzy way. There's a reason for the saying "caring is sharing." ... Caring can also be an adjective.

Why sharing is important
Sharing is a vital life skill. It’s something toddlers and children need to learn so they can make and keep friends, and play cooperatively.

Once your child starts having play dates and going to child care, preschool or kindergarten, he’ll need to be able to share with others.

Sharing teaches children about compromise and fairness. They learn that if we give a little to others, we can get some of what we want as well. Children who share also learn how to take turns and negotiate, and how to cope with disappointment. These are all important life skills.

Helping your child learn about sharing
Children learn a lot from just watching what their parents do. When you model
good sharing and turn-taking in your family, it gives your children a great example to follow.

Children also need opportunities to learn about and practise sharing. Here are some ways to encourage sharing in everyday life:

Point out good sharing in others. You can say things like, ‘Your friend was sharing her toys really well. That was very kind of her’.

When you see your child trying to share or take turns, make sure you give lots of praise and attention. For example, ‘I liked the way you let Aziz play with your train. Great sharing!’

Play games with your child that involve sharing and turn-taking. Talk your child through the steps, saying things like, ‘Now it’s my turn to build the tower, then it’s your turn. You share the red blocks with me, and I’ll share the green blocks with you’.

Talk to your child about sharing before she has play dates with other children. For example, you could say, ‘When Georgia comes over, you’ll need to share some of your toys. Why don’t we ask her what she wants to play with?’ You can also talk to your child about sharing before she starts child care or preschool.

Although it’s important to share, it’s OK for children to have some toys that they keep just for themselves. It’s a good idea to put away these special toys when other children come to play at your house. This can help you avoid problems with sharing.

When your child won’t share
Sharing can be a challenge, especially at first. Most children need practice and support to develop this skill.

If your child doesn’t share well, you can try practicing together at home and talking about what you’re doing. For example, ‘Let’s share this banana. You can...’
have some, and I can have some’. There’s no reason to avoid play dates if your child has trouble sharing. Instead, use them as a chance to help your child practice. You could stay nearby and encourage him so he doesn’t forget to share. When he does try to share, you can say exactly what he did well and how proud you are.

**Consequences for not sharing**

For children over three years, it can help to create consequences for not sharing.

When you use consequences for not sharing, it’s important that the consequences relate to the thing that’s being shared – or not shared! For example, if children aren’t sharing a toy train, you might take the train away from both of them for a short period of time. Neither child can play with the toy train, so the consequence feels the same for both of them. This can also get children thinking about what they need to do if they want to play with the toy together.

When you think they’re ready, you can give the toy back so children get another chance to show they can share.

**Sharing at different ages**

**Toddlers**

Your two-year-old probably doesn’t have an understanding of what sharing is. In general, young toddlers believe they’re the centre of the world and that everything belongs to them. For sharing, children also need to be able to manage their emotions, and toddlers are only starting to learn how to do this.

So consequences for not sharing probably won’t help your toddler learn to share. Instead, encouragement and practice will work better.

When another child has something your toddler really wants, your child will probably find it very hard to wait her turn. She might even try to get the toy any way she can, or have a tantrum if she can’t get what she wants.

**Preschoolers**

By age three, many children are beginning to understand about turn-taking and sharing. For example, your preschooler will probably understand that sharing equally is the ‘fair’ thing to do, but he still might not be keen to put sharing into action when it comes to giving something up. He might also still be impatient when waiting his turn.

You can build your preschooler’s sharing skills by watching for and praising good turn-taking, encouraging fairness and explaining about sharing. Simple activities that involve sharing and taking turns like kicking soccer goals or shooting basketball hoops can be helpful. If there’s trouble, it can help to remind your preschooler how she’d feel if someone took her toy, or didn’t let her have a turn. Talking to her about other people’s feelings will help her understand things from someone else’s point of view – this is also an important skill in making friends.

It’s a good idea to be realistic about a preschooler’s ability to share. At this age, most children are still learning and can find it hard to understand other people’s thoughts and emotions.

**School-age children**

By the time most children start school, they’re beginning to understand that other people have feelings too. This means they’re more likely to share and take turns, although it might still be hard for them to share a favorite toy or game.

School-age children also have a strong sense of fairness and might not want to share a toy or play a game if they think they won’t get a fair go. It might help to check the rules of the games your child is playing, and reassure your child and others that they’ll all get a turn.

At this age, your child will be much more patient and tolerant than he used to be. He’ll also be keen to do the right thing and can form more complex relationships, which really helps with the
idea of sharing. Your child can get lots of practice sharing at school too – for example, sharing pencils at his desk or sharing paints in art.

NOTES of IMPORTANCE:

Sign in: ALL parents “MUST” be signing their child in and out every day! (It is a state law and must be done)

9:am Arrival: Please remember to have your child here prior to 9am. Arriving past that arrival deadline may hinder your child’s ability to be cared for. Beyond 9:15am. If you have not called, your child will not be able to attend or stay without a doctor’s note!

Change of Clothes: All children need a weather appropriate change of clothing, with their names on them.

Blankets: You may provide only one blanket. No pillows are allowed.

We Do NOT serve breakfast. We provide a simple snack at 8:30am. Please do not drop off your children with a Sippy Cup, fast food breakfast or home meals. We are not geared to coordinating breakfast needs. Please make sure your children are nourished before they arrive at school.

Lunch Containers: All such containers, boxes, etc. must have an Ice Pack and the child’s name on it.

Footwear: No flip flops or open toed shoes are allowed.

Toys, Gum & Small Items: Please do not allow your children to come to school with Toys, Gum or small items as they tend to cause a disruption with student behavior and some items pose a safety hazard to your child or others.

Tuition Payment: Must be paid in full weekly. Please help us assure there is no lapse in our services to provide care and program services to your children.

Sea of Learning RESOURCES:

Valuable Resources may be found on our website: If you would like to share additional resource information, please contact us.

www.seaoflearningpreschool.com

If you have a specific request for information not presented, please don’t hesitate to ask and we will try our best to find or secure the information for you.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
Services & Functions That Hit Close to Home

Note: If any of our parents out there would like to have their businesses presented in our newsletter, please share your interest with our office and we will make every effort to have them listed.

DONATE: We encourage our parents and the community to donate supplies and materials to the Sea of Learning as these help provide us with the tools to spark the interests of our children in how they express themselves. Empty paper rolls, scratch paper, etc……

DeCubellis Wellness Center
7337 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34654 727-84 CHIRO

COMMUNITY NEEDS

SABRINA:
Our continued Prayers for the health of our student Sabrina. When one child is in crisis, it is felt through us all. Prayers for this sweet child.
We hope prayers are answered and that love and support are present in the lives of all those impacted by hardships.
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**HAPPY VALENTINES**