



How will my baby learn to share?



Babies and toddlers need to learn about themselves - how they think, feel and look. Then they can start to be interested in and understand other children.

Sharing is an advanced play skill, and happens when your young child starts to play interactively with others. This usually occurs at around 3-4 years of age.

“Babies need to see how you share with others so that when they are ready and old enough, they will do it too!”

- **Start by encouraging early friendships.** Join a playgroup or meet with other mums, dads and babies so that your baby learns to become familiar with and socialise with others.
- To start with, offer some activities that don't require sharing, so that your baby and/or toddler will become used to playing alongside others. Activities such as sand or water play, music games and craft/art activities will **give opportunities for baby to be with others and develop social awareness without the pressure of sharing.**
- Don't expect that baby or toddler will share, but **always praise baby or toddler every time they give another child something that is like sharing.** When your baby or toddler tries to share with you, praise your child by saying something like: “It's nice of you to share your teddy with mummy”.
- Sitting around a table and sharing fruit is a great way to **demonstrate sharing.**
- **Practise sharing at home**, even if it is just you and your child. Some ideas include sharing a book together, sharing food by serving out plates of food while saying (and using their name) “one for Amy and one for me” or similar. Taking turns is also a good way to develop sharing.

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