

Sharing and playing together

Toddlers tend to play beside each other rather than with each other. If they see something they want they don't understand that they can't just take it. Generally by the age of four children understand turn taking and sharing. Here are a few ways to help you to teach your child to share:

- Provide plenty of activities for your children.
- Praise children for playing nicely.
- Treat each child equally even if one is younger.
- Teach your child by showing them that you share. Share your fruit or crisps.
- Let them have a turn of something that you are doing ie chatting to Nana on the phone
- Select activities that encourage sharing ie play dough, cars and mat.
- Act quickly if you see that snatching is about to happen. Remind your child to ask nicely and wait for their turn and praise them for waiting.
- If your child does snatch, this is what to say:
'Emma, stop snatching the car when Sarah is playing with it. Give it back and let her finish her turn.'

Remember to praise good sharing and turn taking every time you see your child doing it.