



Quality ChildCare

For Registered Home-Based Providers

LEARNING TO GROW ★ WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Vol. IX, No. 5

10 Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

- ★ Build trusting relationships
- ★ Provide consistent care
- ★ Support children's health
- ★ Provide a safe environment
- ★ Provide positive guidance
- ★ Provide a language-rich environment
- ★ Foster curiosity and development through play
- ★ Individualize care and learning activities
- ★ Partner with parents
- ★ Pursue personal and professional growth

This Month's Hallmark of Quality Child Care

Provide Positive Guidance

When and How Does Mine Become Ours?

How many times a day do you hear the words "Mine," "I want!" or "Give me!"? These words, besides "mama" and "dada", are some of the first words children use explains Peter Blake, Ed.D., a developmental psychologist. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), tells us that children who are younger than 3 cannot understand the idea of sharing and sharing skills usually do not appear until around 3.5 to 4 years of age.

While your first impulse may be to say "share your toy," you may want to reinforce **turn taking** instead. Taking turns is a precursor to sharing and can start very early before the child is able to speak.

- Taking turns means to *alternate*, and is referred to when play goes back and forth between children.
- Sharing means the child may or may not get the object back (which may feel like her favorite toy is being taken away forever).

Whether it is taking turns or teaching children to share, here are some guidelines to help:

- Have enough of the same toys that the children like (e.g., multiple riding toys, blocks, stuffed animals).
- If a child brings something that is her favorite, have her keep it in a place where she does not need to share (e.g., in her backpack).
- Incorporate taking turns throughout the day during routine activities. For example, you can say things like "Today is Maile's turn to pass out the napkins" or "Kai, can you choose as book for us to read today?"

In this newsletter we will discuss the 6 stages of social play development and strategies to teach young children to take turns and share when it is age appropriate.



The 6 Stages of Play

Understanding the 6 social play stages is important so we do not try to force taking turns or sharing too early, before the child is ready socially or emotionally. It is important to remember that all children develop and progress at her own pace, so children of the same age may not show the same types of social play in sequence.

1. **Unoccupied Play (Birth - 3 months)** - This type of play sets the foundation for all other stages of play. Infants are non-mobile and there is no structure to their play. For them, unoccupied play is exploring materials. This allows them to practice manipulating materials, mastering self-control and learning about how their world works.
2. **Solitary Play (Birth - 2 Years)** - Solitary play happens when children entertain themselves without any outside social interaction. Children in this type of play may not acknowledge other children who are close to them.
3. **Spectator/Onlooker (2 Years)** - The active participation of this type of play is watching other children play. Children learn a lot by watching others play. As they observe others in play, they learn social rules of play and relationships.



4. **Parallel Play (2+ Years)** - Children play near or next to each other but do not necessarily interact with each other. In this stage of play the focus is on the materials and not on the other child or children. During parallel play 2-year-olds are practicing skills and learning the beginning stages of engaging with someone else in play.
5. **Associative Play (3 - 4 years)** - The focus of play shifts from the activity or materials to the other players. This play allows children to practice what they have learned through watching and playing next to other children. Social play is now beginning to happen during this play stage.
6. **Cooperative Play (4+ years)** - This stage of play is categorized as cooperative play between children. Children begin to establish roles in play, and initiate taking turns and sharing. This type of play is an advanced skill and can be difficult for young children.

Toddlers

Since toddlers are just at the beginning stages of engaging with someone else in play, they often find it easier to first take turns with adults. While incorporating turn taking activities, emphasize that they will get the object back.

Here are some activities that you can do with toddlers to introduce turn taking:

- Add communication skills when teaching turn taking by adding gestures. For example, tap your chest and say, “My turn” and then help the child make the gesture as well.
- While playing a game, introduce the concept and words of turn taking. For example, roll a ball or car back and forth while saying, “Your turn, my turn.” If the child is verbal, encourage her to say, “My turn.”
- Make sure the adults turn is very short (literally seconds) with younger children. You can count to 5 or 10, compared with the child’s longer turn. As the child is ready, make the turns more equal in length.
- Use waiting hands to help children learn to wait. Have them clasp their hands together and say, “Waiting hands!” You can say, “Show me your waiting hands.” when you need the child to focus on a behavior during the waiting period.



to have a turn. Set the timer for no more than 2 minutes at first. This takes time and practice.

- Swapping toys is a form of sharing. If the children want what each other has, they can swap for a while and then swap again when they are ready.
- Play a “Sharing Game”. Give the younger child some flowers or toys (have enough for everyone in the room) and ask them to share with everyone. You can say “Give one to Auntie, give one to your friend.” When the child shares you can say “Wow! You are sharing!”
- Read books and stories about sharing, point out the character’s expressions. Relate the story to a situation the children might have encountered regarding sharing or not sharing.

Preschoolers

As preschoolers start to interact and play with others, you can introduce and reinforce the concept of sharing. This concept will still be hard for children to master, so consistent modeling and calling attention to good examples of sharing will help.

Here are some ways that you can begin to teach children to share:

- Introduce the language of sharing by encouraging preschoolers to say, “Can I play with it when you are finished?” or “You can have a turn when I am done.”
- Use a timer. Tell the children that when the timer goes off it is time for the other child

Training Opportunity

Using Story-time to Grow Executive Function and Self-Regulation in ECE: Setting the Stage for Success

Participants will learn what executive function is and how to use story time to build executive function in young children.

<https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/using-storytime-grow-executive-function-self-regulation-ece-setting-stage-success/>

Featured Activity

Feed the Monster



What you need:

- Small cardboard box with a hole cut out for a mouth.
- Glue
- Items to decorate the monster such as paper triangles for teeth, paper circles for eyes.
- Small items to share with the monster: e.g., small toys or pretend food.

What to Do:

1. Create the monster by cutting a hole in a small cardboard box
2. Decorate the monster with paper eyes and teeth.
3. Each child takes a turn sharing by feeding the monster some of their toys.
4. Say to the child, "You are sharing your toys when you are feeding the monster. You have some and the monster has some that you gave him."



Join us on Facebook!
University of Hawaii Learning to Grow
www.facebook.com/learningtogrowhawaii/

Suggested Books

Discover these books and more at the Hawai'i State Public Library www.librarieshawaii.org

Infants and Toddlers

I Can Share

by Karen Katz

This book features simple, repetitive text and adorable illustrations of toddlers. This playful little book is the perfect way to introduce the magic of sharing.



Sharing Time

by Elizabeth Verdick

A simple board book to introduce the idea and concepts of sharing.

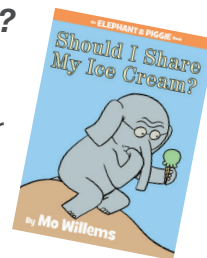


Preschoolers

Should I Share My Ice Cream?

by Mo Willems

Gerald the Elephant has some choices to make, but he better hurry before it is too late. An introduction to sharing with friends.



Llama Llama Time to Share

by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague

Llama Llama has a new friend come to his house to play. Everything is going fine until he has a hard time sharing.



Citations

Helping Young Children With Sharing (2017). Retrieved from: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/helping-young-children-with-sharing/>

Sharing is Caring...AND a Developmental Milestone (2017). Retrieved from: <https://www.greatkidsinc.org/sharing-is-caringand-a-developmental-milestone/>

Learning to Grow Quality Child Care for Registered Home-Based Providers is a project of University of Hawai'i, Windward Community College with funding from the Hawai'i Department of Human Services ★ 808-462-4700 ★ www.learningtogrowhawaii.org