

## SHARING

### “Sharing With Others”

#### Understanding Sharing from Your Child’s Point of View:

In “Sharing With Others” teaches children what sharing means. Spike, Bubba, and Danny have entered a contest to win a balloon machine. Each one promises to share with the others if he or she wins. Spike wins the machine, but once it becomes hers, she decides not to share. Because it’s Dexter’s birthday, the animals plan a party and decorate a cake for him. Keeping all the balloons to herself, Spike fills her whole house with balloons. When she starts sneezing, she pops all the balloons with her quills and startles all the animals with the racket! Mr. Quigley and all the animals find out that she did not share. They learn the lessons that sharing what they have with others is pleasing to God.

Here are some things to consider in teaching your child about sharing.



**3 & 4 year-olds** are continuing to learn what is “mine” and what is “yours.” In order to learn how to share, they first need to develop a sense of ownership. They need some experience with the social rule that if they are playing with a toy, it is theirs to use for the moment. Persistence and attention span can be developed only if children have uninterrupted time to play with a toy. Moreover, children can not be taught to respect the possession of others if they don’t have the possessions that are truly their own.

Several strategies parents can use to help their little ones to learn to share.

- Let them know that they should not grab a toy they want, but instead wait and ask to play with it.
- You can remove the toy and encourage children to construct their own solution, at which time you will return the toy to them to implement their solution.
- You should continue to do some sharing with them yourself: “Yes, you can use my pencil. I will share it with you.”
- Provide another interesting object to distract them until the object they want is available.
- Provide two identical toys, one for each child. As children gain more experience playing with many children, they will learn more about sharing with each other.



**5 & 6 year-olds** can begin to understand that the way they feel when someone takes their toys is actually the way others feel when their toys are grabbed. By understanding other people’s feelings, they can begin to behave toward others the way they want others to behave toward them. You can help your child learn to share by planning ways for your child to share: feeding pets, loaning a book to a neighbor, going along with you when you donate clothing. Always praise your child’s time of sharing.



**7 & 9 year-olds** become competitive and want to be first, or biggest, or best at everything. They are also becoming more social. It’s hard for them to understand that when they don’t play by the rules or share their toys, others won’t want to play with them. Youngsters can learn about sharing by getting involved in cooperative games, such as group art projects, dramatic/puppet presentations, and team scavenger hunts.

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#### Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: “What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?” Then, watch how the program ends. After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Play Balloon Volleyball! Blow up a balloon and tie a knot to close it. Hang a sheet or blanket across the middle of the room. Divide your group in half to make two teams. Each team takes turns hitting the balloon over the sheet or blanket to the other team. One variation is the rule that each person on the team must touch the balloon before it can go over the “net.”
- 2 Plan a birthday surprise for a friend. You can help decorate a greeting card or bake a cake. Even young children can help measure ingredients or break the eggs and stir the cake batter.
- 3 Play “Town.” To help make a pretend town, everyone who is going to play brings something, such as a truck, play house, car, little trees, books, blocks, bags, or a doll. All the toys are needed to play “Town,” and everyone everybody will share their toys in order to make the town and to play in it.
- 4 Before dinner read the Bible Story about Jesus feeding over 5,000 people. Then like Jesus, give thanks to God for the food and pass it around the table.
- 5 Play sharing games where you take turns, such as catching the baseball, rolling a ball across the floor, storytelling as a group, coloring a group picture.
- 6 Mix up and share a Pumpkin Pie with a friend! Combine one 12-ounce can of pumpkin pie filling, one 3-ounce package of instant vanilla pudding mix, and one cup milk. Pour into a baked pie shell. Allow it to set about one hour. Share it and enjoy!
- 7 Learn and sing together one of the songs from “Sharing With Others.”



#### Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: [www.quigleysvillage.net](http://www.quigleysvillage.net)