

## LEARNING TO SHARE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

**NOTE: While this idea was designed for helping to teach children about sharing in the home environment. A similar concept could be developed for the PreK Classroom. Most of you already have toy bins in your classrooms, but I would modify this to allow the children to pick only one toy to play with, and to have the child be responsible for returning it to the bin as soon as play time is over. I would set up a policy that the child can not play with the same toy the next time that you have play time, but must pick a new toy. That way the toys can be shared with other students. Practicing this each day should help with reducing the Mine, Mine, Mine, issues.**

"Mine! Mine! Mine!"

Does this sound like your kids or maybe the seagulls from Finding Nemo?

"Mine" seems to be one of the first words children learn how to say. They want others to know that item is theirs!

It's a powerful word for children and a headache word for adults (especially for parents who have more than one child!) The constant fighting over toys... the screaming.. the ninja kicks over a toy car...

It's like it's the end of the world!

But I have a solution for you - It's called "Sharing Bins!"

I came across these when I was teaching parenting classes and have to share them with you!

1. Buy one container big enough for 10-15 toys. This could be a plastic bin, fancy basket or a fabric tote. Whatever you want to see in your living room everyday!
2. Everyday, pick a number of toys that each child is to put in their "share bin." Example: Johnny and Suzie will each put 5 toys in their share bin every morning.
3. That day, each child can play with whatever toys are in the share bin.
4. That night, have each child put their 5 toys away.

Repeat steps 1-4 everyday!

Whatever toys are not in the toy bin, the children don't have to share that day.

What does this do?

This teaches children about taking turns. They are choosing what toys they are okay with someone else using and playing with. They are able to make the decision every single day (so likely different toys will be added to the share bin regularly.) AND - it encourages the children to

play together, as they will both be excited to see what toys are in the share bin each morning!

What if a child wants to use a toy that's not in the share bin?

This is a great time to talk about asking and to teach waiting! Have the child ask the sibling if they can put (\_\_\_ toys \_\_\_) in the share bin tomorrow, or give the toy to them when the other child is done!

Now will this work right off the bat?

Nope! Nothing does! Be consistent with this and it will take about 3-5 days for your kids to get the hang of the share bins!

Love this idea? Share this email with your friends!