



Supporting Sibling and Peer Relationships During a Pandemic: Let's Play Together!



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Parenting in a Pandemic Webinar Series
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Agenda

- Development of social emotional skills related to friendships and sibling relationships
- Setting the stage for positive peer/sibling relationships
- Strategies to consider



Development of Play Skills Begins During Infancy

Age	Play
Birth to 3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to caregivers: Coos and smiles• Responds to familiar voices• Focuses on objects
4 to 7 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoys social games with caregiver• Likes exploratory play supported by caregiver• Plays games with caregiver (peek-a-boo, patty cake)
8 to 12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins to imitate play actions or behavior of others, especially caregiver• Plays hiding games, songs and rhymes with caregiver• Plays alone without caregiver for short periods

Development of Play Skills Continues with Toddlers

Age	Play
13 to 24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoys play with objects• Increased interest in watching others play• Primarily plays alone• May offer toys to caregiver or other children• May choose to play close to others but not interact with them
25-36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May play with others but in an occasional or limited way• Some cooperation and talking with others• May take leader/follower roles in play• Some pretend play• Still plays alone frequently• Interactive level moving toward

Play Behaviors Reflect the Hierarchy of Play

Play Category	Definition	Age of Typically Developing Child	Behavior Example
Unoccupied	Singular behavior, not participating in any play activity	All ages	A child is staring out a window, not involved in any activity
Solitary	Singular behavior, playing with objects that are different than those other peers are using in play	1-2 years (may occur for brief periods of time at all ages)	A child is playing with a toy car on a beanbag chair away from the rest of the children
Onlooker	Acknowledgment of another social person, watching other children play	1-3 years	A child is sitting on a beanbag chair watching another group of children play in the block area
Parallel	Similar play behaviors as peers (i.e., same toys), little or no interactive techniques	1-3 years	Two children are playing with toy cars in a center area. Each has one car. They are doing separate actions with the cars although they might talk with each other about their separate actions
Associative	Peer interaction by sharing toys, working with the same object, or inquiring about the other peer's behavior, no specific play roles	2-5 years	Two children are playing with toy cars. Each has one car. The children are driving the cars around the same "race track"
Cooperative	Peer interaction by sharing toys and incorporating roles and complex interactive patterns that support structured pretend play	3-5 years	Two children are playing in the dramatic play center. One is pretending to be the mother and the other is the father. There is a baby doll asleep in the crib, and the "mother" is rocking the crib while the "father" is making dinner

Key Social Emotional Skills Children Need as They Enter School

- Confidence
- Capacity to develop good relationships with peers and adults
- Concentration and persistence on challenging tasks
- Effectively communicate emotions
- Listen to instructions and be attentive
- Solve social problems

Learning Friendship Skills Often Starts with Helping Siblings Develop Positive Relationships

Positive sibling relationships need to be supported in all families.

Showing siblings how to interact and play together helps them develop more positive relationships *and it can lead to positive peer relationships.*

Agenda



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- Strategies



Setting Up the Environment

- Make sure that there's enough space for children to engage
- Identify spaces for children to play together with adult supervision
- Provide enough materials that encourage children to interact (cooperative use toys)
- Identify daily opportunities to develop and practice play skills



Friendship Skills



- Gives suggestions
- Shares toys and other materials
- Takes turns
- Is helpful
- Gives compliments
- Begins to empathize
- Understands how/when to give an apology

Agenda

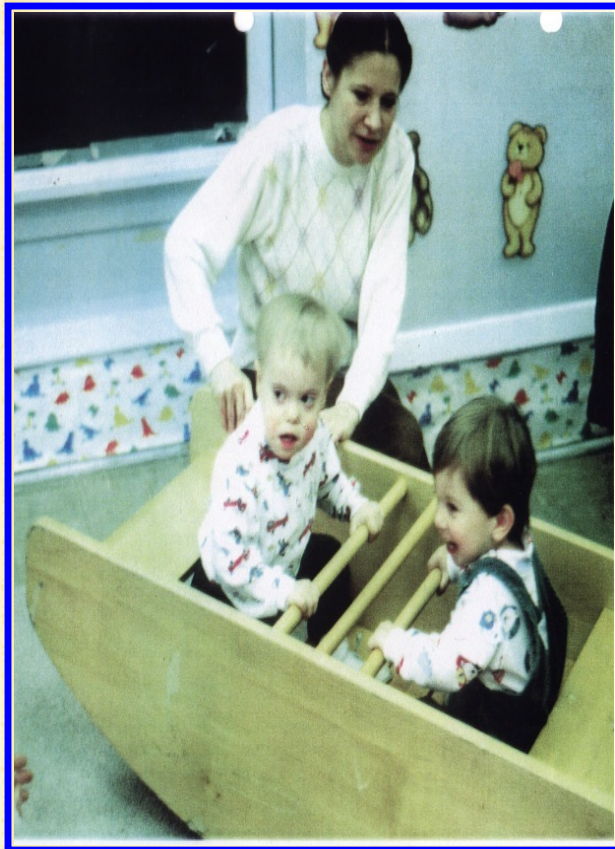
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Start Early Teaching Siblings

How to Interact

Encourage toddlers to help each other and do routines together



Provide positive verbal support for play between children

Read books and sing songs about friends, playing together, helping each other

Friendship music/songs (www.songsforteaching.com)

Books (Csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/booklist.pdf)

Provide opportunities to practice turn-taking and sharing

Teach Siblings How to Interact Together

Have a set time of day which is for playing together

Teach your children ways that their brother or sister can join in a game

Teach your children ways to take part in a game

Show your children ways to communicate

Help your children learn to recognize whether their sibling is enjoying or not liking an activity

Acknowledge when siblings play or interact well together



Starting Early is Especially Important for Some Siblings

For example, children with autism have

- unique challenges with social communication and social interaction and/or exhibit repetitive patterns of behavior
- excellent focus (e.g., cars, trains)
- outstanding memory about specific items (phrases, words, letters)
- strong spatial skills

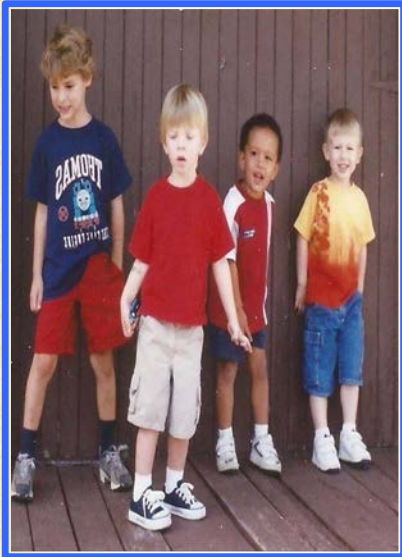


Tips to Encourage Strong Bonds Between Siblings

- Try not to compare your children to each other.
- Teach them to appreciate their differences.
- Have them work on chores or a project as a team.
- Encourage good listening skills.



Tips to Encourage Strong Bonds Between Siblings *cont.*



- Teach them to respect each other.
- Show them how to disagree respectfully.
- Try to figure out what's behind the sibling conflicts.
- Have fun together as a family.
- Emphasize what family bonds really mean.

Teaching Your Children to Take Turns

- * Play games that require turn-taking
- * Build turn-taking in to playtime
- * Use a timer or a song to measure a turn
- * Incorporate turn-taking into everyday routines
- * Practice waiting
- * Celebrate successes



Helping Your Children Learn to Trade

TRADING is a great first step in learning how to share

- Play with the skill of trading
- Begin with objects that are similar or mean little to your child
- Puppets and dolls can also practice trading
- Follow up is important
- Practice by modeling the words for children
- Use trading as a possible solution for problems

BENEFITS

- Can make a child feel empowered
- Helps a child manage their emotions and solve problems without help from an adult
- Allows both people to feel happy with the outcome



Home:School Connection Backpack Connection



How to Teach Your Child to Take Turns

Allyson Jinn, Brooke Brogie, & Jill Giovinetti

Learning how to take turns can be hard, even for adults. It can be frustrating to wait for something that you really want. That's about the best time you've waited in line for your turn or go. How did you feel when you didn't know how long it would be for you to get your turn? How did you feel when you didn't know how long it would be for your child to get their turn? How did you feel when you didn't know how long it would be for your child to get their turn? How did you feel when you didn't know how long it would be for your child to get their turn?

Try This at Home

- Play games that require turn-taking. Board games, such as basketball or checkers, are also good for teaching turn-taking. For young children, use a simple turn-taking game such as building a toy block and turn.
- Use a timer to help with turn-taking. You can use a timer to help with turn-taking. You can use a timer to help with turn-taking. You can use a timer to help with turn-taking.

Practice at School

There are many opportunities to practice taking turns at school. Teachers often intentionally create situations for children to practice taking turns as they work together on projects or activities. Children may also have opportunities to practice taking turns during recess or during structured activities like line-ups or waiting for a turn on the playground.

The Bottom Line

Children are not born knowing how to take turns. It is a skill that they must learn. Taking turns can be learned in many ways. Children can learn from parents, teachers, and other adults. Children can also learn from watching others take turns. Children can learn from watching others take turns. Children can learn from watching others take turns.

More Information

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, [ChallengingBehavior.org](http://challengingbehavior.org).

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How to Help Your Child Learn to Share

Allyson Jinn, Brooke Brogie, & Jill Giovinetti

Learning how to share is a big challenge for all children because it often means putting aside one's own needs in order to make someone else happy. Sharing is not a skill children have when they are born—they need to be taught how to share and how to solve a problem in order to learn this skill. Some children find it easier to share than others. Some children have more opportunities to share than others. Some children have more opportunities to share than others.

Try This at Home

- Read books about sharing with your child. Talk about how the characters might feel and how they solve the problem. A character who is not sharing is not happy. A character who is sharing is happy. A character who is sharing is happy. A character who is sharing is happy.
- Practice sharing with your child. Encourage your child to share with you. Encourage your child to share with you. Encourage your child to share with you. Encourage your child to share with you.

Practice at School

At school, children are taught how to share and how to solve problems. Teachers often intentionally create situations for children to practice sharing. Children may also have opportunities to practice sharing during recess or during structured activities like line-ups or waiting for a turn on the playground.

The Bottom Line

Sharing is a skill that your child will learn through practice and guidance. Children can learn from parents, teachers, and other adults. Children can also learn from watching others share. Children can learn from watching others share. Children can learn from watching others share.

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Allyson Jinn, Brooke Brogie, & Jill Giovinetti

When a child sees another child playing with a toy she wants, her first instinct is to take it. This behavior can be frustrating to playmates and often leads to an argument. Trading is a solution children can choose as a way to get an object from someone else in a positive way, and it is a great first step in learning how to share. Trading is a solution children can choose as a way to get an object from someone else in a positive way, and it is a great first step in learning how to share. Trading is a solution children can choose as a way to get an object from someone else in a positive way, and it is a great first step in learning how to share.

Try This at Home

- Play with the skill of trading. "I have a blue block. Can I trade for your red one?"
- Begin with objects that are similar to each other so the interaction, rather than who has it, is the focus. Trade pennies, crayons, or blocks rather than a favorite blanket or stuffed animal.
- Puppets, trains, dolls, and cars can also be used for trading. Can you trade a train for a car? Can you trade a car for a train? Can you trade a car for a train? Can you trade a car for a train?

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The Bottom Line

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http://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/backpack/BackpackConnection_socialskills_share.pdf
http://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/backpack/BackpackConnection_socialskills_turns.pdf
http://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/backpack/BackpackConnection_socialskills_trade.pdf

Benefits of Strong Relationships with Siblings and Friends

- Increases self esteem and self confidence
- Supports the development of social skills
- Results in less conflict
- Can develop more positive attitudes about others
- Builds a child's capacity to empathize
- Contributes to quality of life



**THANK
YOU!**

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