**LEARNING HOW TO SHARE**

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**The high earth shattering screams came from the sandbox. “Jamie won’t share.” “Teddy won’t share.”**

**The two two-year-old cousins each had their end of the truck and were pulling hard as the tears streamed down their faces.**

**What does sharing mean to a two-year-old?**

**It means give up the toy. “By nice,” says the adult. “Share,” while handing the toy to the other child.**

**To be able to share one must understand ownership, an abstract concept totally ununderstandable to a two-year-old.**

**Ownership to two-year-olds is having the object in your fist. Watch a toddler trying to carry innumerable objects. That is the only way he can “own” them is by having them in their hands.**

**An alternative is to set a timer. “Teddy gets to play with the truck for two minutes, then it is Jamie’s turn.” Taking turns is something you can learn to do. You also learn that while taking turns some things stay at your house. They are yours, the beginning of understanding ownership. Some things stay at your friends. They are his.**

**Another approach is to help children play together with a favored toy. Jamie gets to drive the truck to the sand pit. Teddy gets to fill the truck with sand and drive it home. Jamie gets to dump it. Or two babies and only one baby carriage but room enough for both babies to cuddle in while both mommies can push the carriage to the grocery store.**