

Create a space in your home where your family can share objects with each other. Your child will enjoy sharing, talking, and hearing what other family members say.



Why this is important

Your child may enjoy sharing but may also need help doing it. You can encourage and expand this behavior by providing a family sharing place. Together you will talk about the shared items. Words will become the principal way of sharing as your child grows, and he will enjoy the stories that accompany each object. He will learn that although he cannot take home all objects and experiences, he can share them through his words and drawings, and later with his letters and photographs.

What you do

- Find a space in your home to dedicate to sharing. The space should include a flat surface and an upright surface for hanging items. You can use a box or low shelf with a cork board or cloth hanging behind. Make sure the flat space is within your child's reach. **If you hang items on a cork board, make sure thumb tacks or push pins are kept out of your child's reach.**
- Draw your child's attention to an object on display: *Look, Alex, here's a letter. It's from Grandma. She sent us a new picture.*
- Give him time to handle the object and then later share it with other family members. He may ask questions about the item to help him remember it.
- Encourage your child to share an object with you, and then thank him for his contribution to the sharing space.

Another idea

Remind your child about the sharing place when playing outside. Help him find interesting objects throughout his day that he can place in the sharing space. You can also encourage him to display his artwork for everyone to enjoy.