



Sharing with Others

Oftentimes, especially in school, students find themselves having to share materials, space, attention from the teacher, and their friends with others. Teaching students the importance of being able to share something with others helps them develop a social skill that will serve them in school, at home, and in the community.

The goal of the lesson is to teach students the appropriate behavioral expectations for the skill of “Sharing with Others.”

The objectives of the lesson for students include:

- learning the steps of the skill of “Sharing with Others.”
- practicing the skill.
- generalizing the use of the skill to different places and different people.

Introduce the Skill

Pass out a sheet of paper and one pen (or a box of crayons) to every other student in the class. Ask the students with the materials to copy something off the blackboard (the spelling word list, a drawing, etc.). You also could pass out a piece of paper and a scissors to every other student and have them cut out a shape you’ve drawn on the board.

Tell the students who were given the materials needed to complete the task that they will have to share those objects with the person sitting next to them.

NOTE: Make sure your instructions match the items you are going to ask students to share.

Ask students to think about times when they have been asked to share something with someone. Have them say what they shared. Reinforce their responses.

NOTE: Responses can include markers at school, the last piece of cake at home, a bed at grandma's house, etc.

Describe the Appropriate Behavior

Provide students with the behavioral steps for the skill of "Sharing with Others."

NOTE: Steps can be posted on a bulletin board or shown on an overhead, etc. Please adapt the steps to fit your expectations and the needs of your students.

SAY: "Here are the steps of the skill of 'Sharing with Others.'"

1. **Let the other person use the item first.**
2. **Ask if you can use it later.**
3. **When you get to use it, offer it back to the other person after you have used it.**

SAY: "These are the steps we are going to use for the skill of 'Sharing with Others' in this class and building."

Give a Reason

Ask the students to provide reasons for why they think it might be important to share with others using these steps. Here are some examples of reasons to use in case students have difficulty thinking of ones on their own:

- People will be more likely to share something they have with you.
- You will be seen as being nice.

Practice

Choose one or more of the following activities to complete your lesson by allowing the students to practice the skill.

1. Have students tell their partner the steps of the skill.

NOTE: There are other things people ask to share that are not going to be returned (e.g., food, paper, etc.). It will be important to talk with students about how sharing with others is different when the item they are being asked to share is something consumable.

2. Journaling ideas

- Ask students to write about a time when they shared something of theirs with someone (e.g., materials, a candy bar, etc.) and how they thought it made the other person feel when they shared.
- Ask students to write about a time they did not share something with someone and how they thought it made the other person feel.

3. Role-play: Use the following scenarios as ideas for skits about sharing. Allow students time to write and practice their skits. Then have them act out the skit to model using the skill of “Sharing with Others” for the class.

NOTE: Adapt the situations to meet the developmental needs of your students.

- Your teacher asks you to share your book with someone in the class who forgot his or hers.
- Your grandma asks you to share the bed with your brother or sister.
- Your friend asks if you will share your toys.
- Your mom asks you to share the remote control for the television and take turns watching shows.

4. Literature connections: Reading students a book that addresses a particular problem is a great way to start class discussions. The following books for younger students are related to sharing with others.

- *Little Bunny’s Cool Tool Set*, by Maribeth Boelts (ages 5-6)
- *Runaway Rice Cake*, by Ying Chang Compestine (ages 5-9)
- *Muffin Dragon*, by Stephen Cosgrove (ages 5-9)
- *The Very Small*, by Joyce Dunbar (ages 5-7)
- *Selfish Sophie*, by Damian Kelleher (ages 5-8)
- *It’s Mine*, by Leo Lionni (ages 3-7)
- *Stone Soup*, by Jon J. Muth (ages 5-8)
- *The Little Red Buckets: A Story of Family and Giving*, by Lynda M. Nelson (5th)
- *Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale*, by Marcus Pfister (preschool-1st)
- *Labels for Laibel*, Dina Herman Rosenfeld (ages 5-6)

SAY: “Thank you for completing the practice activity. We will continue to discuss the skill of ‘Sharing with Others’ for the rest of the week.”

NOTE: Each day of the week, review the steps of the skill, discuss why it is important to use the skill, and practice when possible.

Other Ideas for Practice

NOTE: As you develop other ideas for practicing the skill, write them here and share them with other staff members in your building.

For younger students (K-5), use literature to lead a discussion on how to share with others. Books by popular children’s author Julia Cook, including *Teamwork Isn’t My Thing*, and *I Don’t Like to Share!*, are recommended.

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