

Keeping Healthy and Safe: Play Time

Young children are learning that sometimes, sharing toys and supplies is not helpful. Adults can support them with simple explanations, visual supports, and practice.

Provide a Simple Explanation

Use simple phrases, such as “It is so nice to want to share toys with friends, but our germs can get on these things. We can be kind by keeping our items to ourselves.”



Use Visual Supports

Post pictures of children playing, each with his or her own toys or supplies.



Set Them Up for Success

When possible, provide supplies for each child in a bin labeled with his or her name.

Provide Practice and Encouragement

Role play substitute behavior. Say “I like your doll. I’m going to get my doll and play near you!” instead of saying, “I like your doll. Can I play with it?”

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this tip sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois State Board of Education.



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