



Child Care Choices Partners in Parenting

A Publication of
Child Care Choices
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NEGOTIATE

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Willingness to negotiate shows respect for the needs, desires, values, and opinions of others. Respect breeds respect; children who are valued and shown high regard develop respect for themselves and other people. Social skills are acquired over a lifetime—a three-year old is not likely to learn to negotiate her way through a dispute in a week or even a year! Very young children can begin to learn about sharing, but most children need to be around four years old before they can understand much about negotiation.

Effective negotiation creates a "win-win" situation. How can we promote the give and take that can cut short those fights we so detest?

- Plan ahead to prevent a dispute in the first place:
 - *Assure that our child is rested and fed before a precarious situation arises, such as a trip to the store.
 - *Practice negotiation with our child instead of always giving orders.
 - *Inform our child what we expect in an upcoming situation: "Tommy is coming over after lunch; let's choose some toys you can share and play with together."
- Establish an understanding early about which rules or routines in our home are negotiable and which are not. (TV time may be negotiable; dinner time with the family may not.)
- Begin by suggesting ways children can negotiate: "That is your sister's doll house, but you might offer to let her play with your Barbie nurse if she'll let you borrow her doll house."
- Encourage a creative thinking process when a child seems ready for it: "If you want to play with your brother's truck and he likes to borrow your tractor, how can you work this out?"
- Promote cooperative play, starting at about age four: "If you both want to use the red wagon, how could you use it at the same time?" We may need to start with making some suggestions: "Have you thought about asking Eric if he'd like to help you load the Lincoln Logs into the truck?"
- Ask each child come up with as many solutions to a dispute as she can, no matter how wild and crazy, and write them down. Read them back, one at a time, and ask each child what he thinks. (They will recognize that "Clobber my sister" might not be a viable option!) Help them see how a combination of ideas might work to everyone's benefit.
- Let our children see us negotiate our way through minor marital or relationship disputes. Children learn what they know about life from watching us!
- Recognize that the efforts a child makes now, if practiced, evaluated, and improved, will help him achieve a skill that will serve for a lifetime. So, be patient and "hang in there"; you will like the results.



REAR A READER!

- Hold your newborn baby in your arms and read or quote nursery rhymes to her.
- Read nursery rhymes and simple stories to your toddler, then let them him imitate the action he sees in the pictures. (You may have to demonstrate first!)
- Read favorites over and over again, letting the child fill in some of the words.
- Make a trip to the library be a special outing for the child; let her sign up for a library card as soon as your local librarian allows it.
- Read to your child several times a day if possible. Some reading time might be playful, with the child acting out the story, while bedtime reading is best done quietly in soft light.
- Furnish a book rather than a TV show for your child to look at while you get lunch or dinner ready.
- Let your children see you read for pleasure—young children imitate their parents.

THE BOOK LOOK

(Some Children's Classics)

Freight Train by Donald Crews

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard and James Marshall

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus

John Henry by Julius Lester

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin and Lois Ehlert



FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS !

Bring your children and join us for an activity filled morning on Saturday, February 27, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at First Place, 16 West Franklin Street, Troy. There will be crafts, music, movement, refreshments, and a FREE book for each child. Call us at 667-1799 or 866-667-4799 to let us know you are coming. There