

A Letter From Mrs. Schosek

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Learning how to play fairly with others is an important skill to directly teach children during their earliest years. Though the pandemic has unfortunately limited opportunities to practice things like sharing here at school, I'm aware that many children still play closely at home with siblings and other relatives, or with friends at child care settings. Therefore, this month I visited your child's class to teach them the three fair ways to play. They are sharing, trading, and taking turns.

Sharing - sharing can mean playing with materials together or it could mean splitting materials in half. For example, with blocks, we can build a castle together OR we could each have half the pile to play with separately.

Trading - to trade, we swap toys temporarily. I might let you play with my fire truck while I play with your police car.

Taking Turns - we take turns when only one person can use something at a time. If there is only one swing open at the playground, I may have to wait my turn to use it.

During our lesson, we talked about how it's normal to have a special toy or item that's hard for us to share. If this happens, I encouraged students to 1) explain to the other person why they don't feel comfortable sharing the item and 2) offer something different to share. For example, "I don't want to share my Lego set because it's brand new and I'm afraid it will break. Would you like to play with my matchbox cars instead?"

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and as always, thank you for all that you do!

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