

A STORY TO READ AT A CALM TIME

When a friend comes to play

1 My name is _____.
2 Sometimes a friend comes to my house to play.
3 Before my friend comes, I pick two special things. They go up high, and they wait for me there.
4 Everything else is for both of us today.
5 Sometimes we both want the same thing at the same time. That happens to lots of kids.
6 When I am holding something, I am still using it.
7 **I can say, "I'm still using it. You can have it when I'm done."**
8 Waiting is hard. My friend might feel sad while they wait.
9 When I am the one waiting, my grown-up stays close to me. The waiting gets a little smaller.
10 When I am done, it goes to my friend. Then it is their turn.
11 Sometimes we use something together, like one big box we push all the way across the room.
12 Having a friend over is new, and I am learning. My grown-ups love me.

Finn

STILL USING IT. THEN IT'S YOURS.

Read it once a day at a calm time, never right after a hard moment. The marked line is the words your child can use in the moment. Say it the same way every time.

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Watch their face when the kid with a friend over is them.

Scan to see the story.

THE SAME WORDS, AT HOME AND AT DAYCARE

When two of them want the same thing

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WHAT WE SAY, EVERY TIME

TO THE ONE HOLDING IT

"You're still using it. Your friend can have it when you're done."

TO THE ONE WAITING

"Waiting is hard. I'm right here."

1
Come close. Get down to their level. Nobody takes it back for anyone.

2
Say the line once. To both of them, same words, quiet voice. No lecture.

3
Stay with the one waiting. Offer something else to do while they wait.

We say it the same way every time. So does everyone who looks after your child.

TEAR HERE FOR THE TEACHER

FOR THE TEACHER

This child's grown-ups use these words. It helps if you do too.

At home we let a child finish their turn, and we stay with the one who is waiting. Raising Children Network puts it simply: "It's unrealistic to expect your toddler to share consistently." We are not asking for anything new, just the same words.

THE LINE WE USE AT HOME

"You're still using it. You can have it when you're done."

And to the one waiting: **"Waiting is hard. I'm right here."**

Their own words: "I'm still using it."

WRITE BACK TO US

- [ ] Waited for a turn, with help
- [ ] Handed something over when done
- [ ] Hard to give up: _____

Thank you. From home.

Watch their face when the kid with a friend over is them.

A story with their name in it: their first friend over, two special things up high, the waiting, and the cup they give when they're done. **Scan to see the story.**

fablefleet.com/stories/sharing

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FOR THE GROWN-UPS

Sharing, on one page

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What every pediatric body agrees on, and what the parents who got through it did. Most of it happens before the doorbell rings.

Before a friend comes

- [ ] **Let them pick two special things** and put them up high. Everything else is for both kids.
- [ ] **Have two of the favourites.** Two cups, two trucks, two of whatever they fight over.
- [ ] **Keep it to about an hour.** End while it is still going well.
- [ ] **Read the story the day before,** at a calm time.

In the moment

- **To the one holding it:** "You're still using it. Your friend can have it when you're done."
- **To the one waiting:** "Waiting is hard. I'm right here." Then offer something else.
- **A timer is fine** if it helps your family. So is letting them finish.
- **No sticker for sharing.** A warm word is enough: "You gave your friend the cup. Look at that face."

The other grown-up

- **Say your plan out loud:** "We're doing turns here. Mine's finishing, then it's your little one's turn."
- **If they make their child hand it over:** "It's okay, let them finish. I'll help mine wait."
- **It's not a verdict on your parenting.** Nearly every parent of a two-year-old has stood in this exact spot.

What to expect

"Mine" is normal, and it's a step forward: toddlers who say it tend to share more later.

At two, sharing comes now and then. **Around three,** it starts to show. It settles through four and five.

With a sibling, give each child a few things of their own that they never have to share.

What's behind this: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Canadian Paediatric Society, Zero to Three, Raising Children Network, the CDC, and parents' own stories. The full guide is at fablefleet.com/sharing-social-story-printable.

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