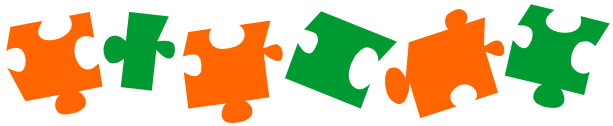


HOW IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS?



Babies first learn about social skills from the relationships they form with parents and caregivers. When a baby feels loved and trusts people to take good care of her, she has learned to feel good about herself and other people. This sets the stage for good relationships with other children.

We encourage babies and toddlers to help each other. “Tiffany, please help me find Toby’s sock!” “Tony is really sad; how do you think we can help him feel better?”

We talk a lot about feelings—teaching babies and toddlers how to “tune in” to what they and other children are feeling. “See those tears on Alicia’s face? That’s because you bit her. It hurts. Remember when Sam bit you? How do you think you can help Alicia feel better?” This teaches empathy and responsibility for their own actions.



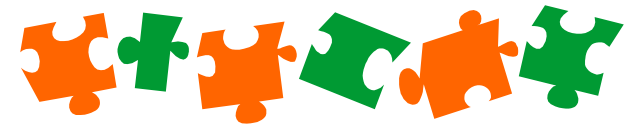
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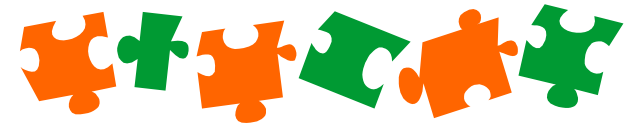
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We try to set an example to teach respect, caring and acceptance of differences. "I see that Jon doesn't like the loud music. Let's turn down the volume a bit."

Finally, we encourage cooperative play. "If you sit on one side of the boat and Tyrone sits on the other, it will rock and you can have fun together."

Sharing is a skill that takes a while to learn. Children must first feel confident about having something be their own, before they are willing to share it. We try to provide duplicates of popular toys so that arguing is reduced. At around 4 years, children learn how sharing can make play more fun.

Let us know when something happens at home that could be upsetting to your child -- a new sibling, the death of a pet, moving to a new home, etc. This will help us understand his different mood and offer him some extra support.



Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-10

July, 1999

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