



A Note From CDE



Dear Friends and Family of Child Development,

Welcome to the November issue of Family Times! We are well into the school year and we hope your children are succeeding and having fun. Making new friends can be hard but our theme for this issue, "sharing" can help your kids establish positive relationships and thrive.

Sometimes sharing can be a difficult concept for children and adults too! We all get possessive of our belongings, our time, and our space. In this issue we are focusing on sharing and will offer suggestions on how to encourage your child to share at home and at their early education and care setting.

At different times of the year sharing becomes more important and sometimes more challenging. When I think of the approaching holiday season, some images come to my mind: community, family gatherings, and gift-giving and these all center on sharing. Sharing time with family and friends through traditions is a favorite part of the season. Sharing gifts and learning to be generous are valuable lessons for children to learn at this time of year. Take the time to explain to your children how sharing a toy, gift or activity can make someone else happy. Soon they will learn that sharing makes them happy too!

We hope these ideas and activities that we are sharing with you will be helpful and fun.

Sincerely,
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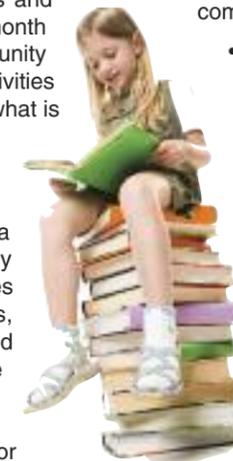
Policy Update

November 2010 is Family Literacy Month in Massachusetts! The goal of Family Literacy Month is for all of us, children, parents, educators and community leaders, to support literacy programs, get involved in the education process and celebrate life long learning. This month schools, libraries, YMCA's and community centers across the state will host activities for families to participate in. Find out what is going on in your community at <http://libraries.state.ma.us/pages/literacy>.

There are many ways that you, as a parent, can enjoy Family Literacy Month with your child. Literacy includes reading books, listening to stories, identifying sounds and syllables and practicing writing. You can make everyday activities into reading opportunities; for example, read signs and labels at the grocery store, or while walking to the bus stop, make a to-do list, or recite nursery rhymes. Have fun with it!

Here are some more suggestions of fun ways to highlight reading in your family:

- Make reading special. Children should feel as if having a book is special. Help them create a space for storing their books. Reading



should be viewed as an enjoyable activity.

- Use your local library. Libraries are a great resource for families. It costs nothing to borrow books and they are located in most communities!
- Choose appropriate books. Make sure that when taking books out from the library or school you choose books that are appropriate for your child's age and reading level. Ask a teacher or a librarian for recommendations and let your child pick books they are interested in.
- Set aside time for reading. Find a good time during the day to designate as reading time. This can be at break fast, after dinner or before bed. It doesn't matter what time it is, just that you find space in your family routine.
- Limit television time in favor of other activities. Monitor program selection for your children. Discuss programs with them. Have a "NO-TV" night with your family on a regular basis. Read magazines, write letters to relatives living far away, or play board games!

Massachusetts Family Literacy Consortium
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/familylit/month/>
For more information about Family Literacy Month go to
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/familylit/month/announcement.html>

Parental Engagment

In our busy lives it is sometimes difficult for parents to find time to connect and talk to their provider about their child. Parents, here are some ways you can get involved in your child's family care program:

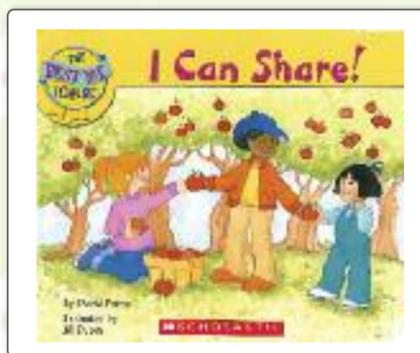
- Give your child's provider a call or send an email once a week to check on what your child is doing, discuss and updates about your child, and ask questions. This is a wonderful time to discuss the projects or activities your child did at the family child care program that week.
- Share some of your talents with your provider. Are you good at carpentry or sewing? Offer to make a puppet theater curtain or a balance beam for all the children to play with. What else does your provider need that you would be willing to share?

Quotable Quotes:

"Children will not remember you for the material things you provided, but for the feeling that you cherished them." - Richard L. Evans

Question & Answer

Q My 2 ½ year old has trouble sharing. She doesn't want to share her dolls with anyone, even her siblings. Is there anything I can do to get her to share her toys and play better with others?



phone back and forth, and share, she will learn to interact and share with you; and will have fun at the same time. Another way to encourage sharing among a group of children in an early education and care setting or in a family is to offer

toys and materials which have plenty of items for everyone, such as a box of crayons or set of legos. This way there is plenty for everyone and the children can practice sharing specific colors and sizes.

Finally, it is always important to model good sharing behavior with your child. By sharing a book or a snack with them, your child will imitate your actions and learn how to share.

A Children learn to share as they grow older and learn that sharing and playing with others can be more fun than playing alone. At 2 ½ it is difficult for your daughter to understand why she should share her toys. Developmentally, a child of that age cannot grasp the concept of sharing. She thinks that if she lets someone else play with her toy, she will never get it back. Instead, you may find that your 2 ½ year old is happier playing with her own toys, next to her siblings who are playing with their own toys. It will not be until about age 3 ½ that your child will begin to learn the difference between taking turns and sharing.

One way to teach your child to share with others is to practice passing an old cell phone back and forth in mock conversation. Say, "There is a phone call for you, Anna," and pass the phone to her, then ask for it back after she says hello, etc. By encouraging your child to pass the

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November Celebrations

7th- Daylight Savings Time Ends
Turn clocks back one hour.



At this time of year, the sun goes down earlier. It also gets colder. What are some clothes you can wear when it gets cold out? What are some clothes you cannot wear in the cold weather? Remember to wear warm clothes everyday! Don't forget about hats and mittens!



11th- Veterans Day
On this day we remember the all the men and women who have served in the military to keep our country safe. There are lots of people in our country and in our neighborhoods that keep us safe everyday.

25th- Thanksgiving

On this day we celebrate the people and the things in our lives that we are thankful for. Many people have a special meal today.

What are 3 things that you are thankful for?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Check Your Batteries

During daylight savings, firefighters keep us safe by reminding us to check the batteries in our smoke detectors. Remind your parents to check the batteries!



It Is Well Known

that squirrels hide acorns to last them through the winter season, when food is scarce. They might hide them in their homes, but they also bury them in the ground



Match the pictures of the people who keep us safe to their name

Soldiers



Firefighter



Emergency Workers



Police Officers



Teachers



Can you think of more people who keep you safe everyday?



If You're Thankful and You Know It.
Sung to the tune of "If You're Happy & You Know It"

If you're thankful and you know it clap your hands. (Clap hands twice)
If you're thankful and you know it clap your hands. (Clap hands twice)
If you're thankful and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (Smile big)
If you're thankful and you know it clap your hands! (Clap hands twice)
Note: You can do additional verses... "stomp your feet", "give a hug", "say thank you!"



Squirrel Song

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel
Shake your bushy tail (pretend to shake tail)
Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel
Shake your bushy tail (pretend to shake tail)
Wrinkle up your funny nose (act out line)
Put a nut between your toes (pretend to eat a nut)
Gray Squirrel Shake your bushy tail (Pretend to shake a tail)

Squirrels like to eat nuts, like acorns.
Go on a walk and search for acorns.

AN ACORN IS A NUT THAT STARTS WITH THE LETTER A.

Practice printing the letter A below.

Aa

Name 3 things that start with the letter A.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____