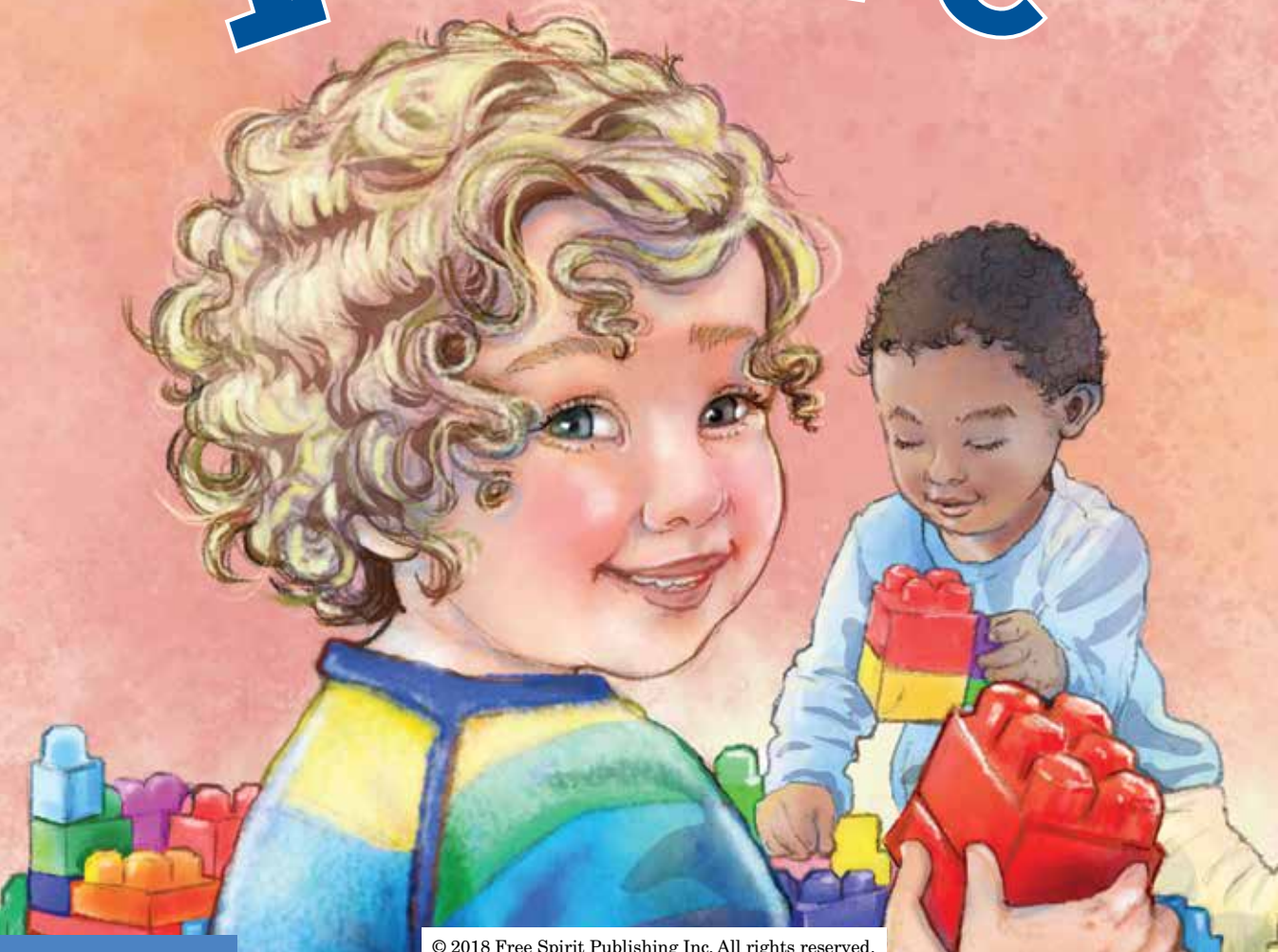


I Share



© 2018 Free Spirit Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

free spirit
PUBLISHING®

Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. • Illustrated by Penny Weber

I have **special** things
that belong just to me.



Someone else may
want them, too.



Tips to Help Children Share

Young children need to feel a sense of love and belonging. When they feel confident in their relationships with family and friends and they realize the many ways others share with them, they may feel less attached to things and more willing to share with others. This book shows young children why they might choose to share and how sharing can be good for everyone.

As you read each page of the book, help children imagine what could be happening and what the people might be thinking or saying. Then let children use dolls, action figures, or puppets to role-play their own dialogue based on the situations in the book. Also use the following tips to encourage children to share:

Provide a safe learning atmosphere. Establish a calm, respectful climate where children know that their space and belongings are honored. By sharing your time, resources, ideas, and patience, you give children models to observe, and they may choose to share when they feel ready.

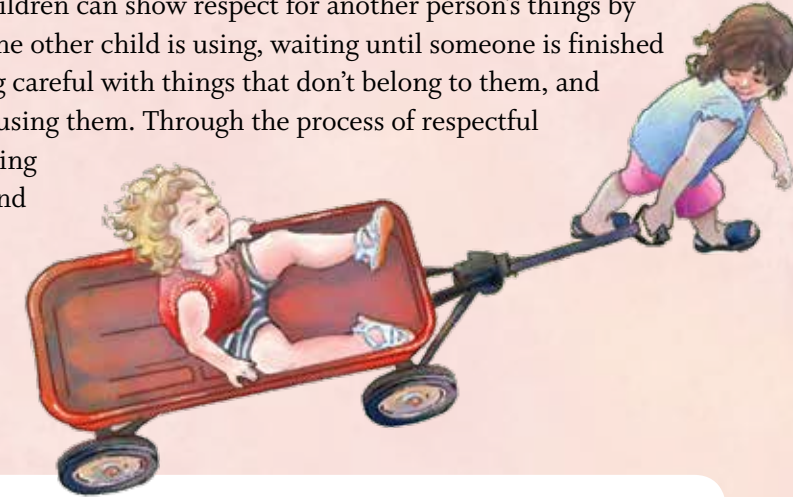
Discuss ownership. Often, a child must first feel a sense of ownership or security before feeling able to share. Talk to children about various items and who they belong to. Sharing can only be learned when it is the child's choice. If something belongs to a child, allow the child to choose whether to share it. If something belongs to someone else, the child might ask to borrow it. Items that belong to the group can be used together, with all children respectfully asking and sharing.

Encourage generosity. The book teaches an attitude of having “plenty to share.” Explain to children that no matter what they have, they always have enough to share, and that shared items are often returned. When sharing is hard, listen to the child, and ask about the fears or concerns the child has with sharing. Explain that being *generous* is good for everyone, and that someone else's happiness doesn't take away their own. In fact, it can feel good to be kind and make someone else happy. Give children opportunities (without pushing) to share and feel the intrinsic rewards that come. Children will also learn to model generosity when it is shown to them.

Focus on ways to play. Instead of emphasizing sharing *objects*, focus on *how* someone is playing. Together with a child, observe another child playing with an item and describe what you see. Prompt the child with you to say to the child who is playing, “I like your idea. When you're done, maybe I can try.” This helps make sharing about the activity itself, not just about the object.

Show and teach respect. Children can show respect for another person's things by asking politely to use something the other child is using, waiting until someone is finished with a toy before they use it, being careful with things that don't belong to them, and returning items when they finish using them. Through the process of respectful sharing, children can enjoy satisfying experiences with other children and receive respect in return.

For additional ideas about sharing and taking turns, go to www.freespirit.com/2share; use the password **plenty**.



Text copyright © 2019 by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. Illustrations copyright © 2019 by Free Spirit Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Meiners, Cheri J., 1957– author. | Weber, Penny, illustrator.

Title: I share : a book about being kind and generous / by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. ; illustrated by Penny Weber.

Description: Minneapolis : Free Spirit Publishing Inc., [2018] | Series: Learning about me & you | Audience: Age: 2–4.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018006854 (print) | LCCN 2018008778 (ebook) | ISBN 9781631982248 (Web PDF) | ISBN 9781631982231 (board book) | ISBN 1631982230 (board book)

Subjects: LCSH: Sharing—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC BF575.S48 (ebook) | LCC BF575.S48 M45 2018 (print) | DDC 177/.7—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018006854>

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

R18860718

free spirit PUBLISHING®

6325 Sandburg Road, Suite 100

Minneapolis, MN 55427-3674

612-338-2068

help4kids@freespirit.com

www.freespirit.com