

## Messages to parents

### WORKSHOP 16 Learning to share

Dear parents,

Today, *Minipally* told me a story about an argument. Yes, even *Minipally* sometimes has problems sharing with his friends. I want to learn to find solutions to avoid arguments, too. Sometimes I need your help when I'm too worked up to think.

To come up with a good solution, I have to learn to say what I feel and what I want and to listen to what the other person feels and wants.

Then, I have to calm down to come up with some solutions and then choose one and try it. We can practise sharing together with the little hearts I put in this envelope. There are several little hearts, but everyone in the family will want one, so we will have to share. Thank you for helping me to become a good negotiator!





**Minipally**  
Suggestions for parents  
Workshop 16: Learning to share

My child is learning to share objects using various problem-solving strategies.

- Little by little, the parent teaches the child to resolve conflicts (ownership conflicts are the most frequent in early childhood) by introducing her to the steps of problem-solving. First she asks the children what happened and avoids siding with any one child. She asks what they are feeling, what they want. This exchange requires that the children first stop to calm down. Slow breathing can help the child become calm again. Finally, the children find possible solutions and must choose one. The parent congratulates the children applying a solution and points out the positive results.
- The parent helps her child understand the nature of the problem. "There is one scooter and two of you. What can we do so that you can both ride the scooter?" Here, taking turns is required. If, however, there are several cars and Thomas is playing with all the cars, the solution requires dividing the objects into two parts. In some cases, especially with 2-year-olds, trading can be a good solution, that is, propose another attractive object to the child who has the desired toy.
- The parent sets the example by sharing objects with her children.
- The parent creates situations that foster sharing: for example, one glue container for two or three children.
- The parent encourages group or helping activities: for example, watering plants or picking up leaves in the fall. This forces children out of their natural self-centredness to do something together.