

Messages to parents

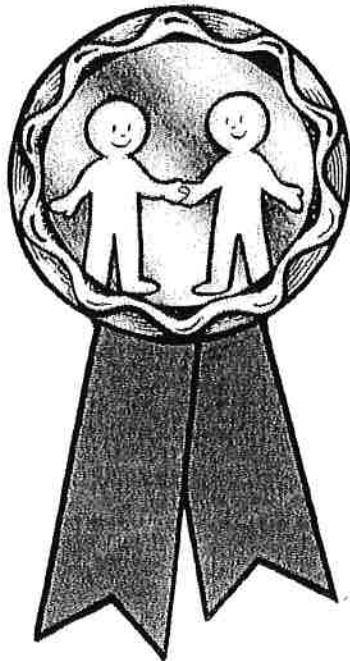
WORKSHOP 4

Making a request to play with a toy

Dear parents,

Minipally is a lot like me. Sometimes he wants another child's toy. He likes to play with Tickle Rabbit's train that whistles. *Minipally* practises using golden questions when he wants a friend's toy. I am sure that I too can say, "Would you lend me your toy?" if someone helps me a bit and encourages me. I often hear you using golden questions to ask for things. It helps me learn.

Note: For 2-year-olds, requests may be made with gestures. An open hand on the chest means "Mine." An index finger pointing to an object means "I want." An arm stretched out with the palm facing up and the hand opening and closing means "Give." These gestures require children to exert a certain amount of self-control as they resist the temptation to grab the desired object and try to express themselves instead. That's why it is important to congratulate children and to offer them a model to follow: "You're pointing to the banana with your finger. You want the banana. You can say, 'I want'."





Minipally

Suggestions for parents

Workshop 4: Making a request to play with a toy

My child is learning to ask to get a toy and that her request may be denied.

- I use mealtime to make small requests to my child: "Could you give me a slice of bread, please?" In this way, I model making a request.*
- I congratulate my child when she uses requests to obtain a toy, an item of clothing or food; she may do this verbally or with gestures (pointing, "Me," or "Want" with a hand opening and closing meaning "Give").*
- I help my child make requests. "I see that you want Eric's truck. Come, let's go ask him. Say, 'Eric, can I borrow your truck?'" I congratulate her for having asked and I help her wait. "You see, Eric heard you. As soon as he's finished, he'll lend you his truck."*
- I recognize that it's frustrating to be refused something when you've made the effort to ask to have it. I emphasize this by saying it to my child. I invite her to wait or propose another activity in the meantime.

* Translated from Sylvie Bourcier, *L'agressivité chez l'enfant de 0 à 5 ans*. Montreal: Éditions du CHU Sainte-Justine, 2008.