

Messages to parents

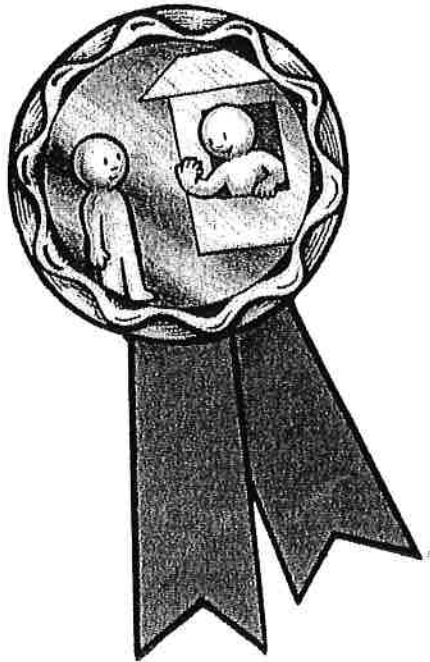
WORKSHOP 3

Making a request to play with a friend

Dear parents,

Today I played with *Minipally*. He came up to me, said my name and hello, and asked, "Would you like to play with me?" He told me that I could be a "golden question" champion too, and that my teacher will congratulate me when I ask a friend if I can play with him. When you congratulate me, it makes me want to do it more often, because I like to please you.

Note: For 2-year-olds, requests may be made with gestures. As language develops, these positive gestures will gradually turn into short requests, such as "Me" or "Me too!" and eventually, into sentences.





Minipally

Suggestions for parents

Workshop 3: Making a request to play with a friend

My child is learning to ask to join a group.

- I invite my child to ask to play with his brother or sister, or with a neighbour: "Go ask him: May I play with you?"*
- I use moments such as raking leaves, sorting clothing, setting the table or carrying small shopping bags to ask my child: "Do you want to . . . with me?" Then I emphasize how much I enjoy doing activities with him.*
- I point out to my child when his friend approaches with a smile: "Look, Matthew, your friend is coming over to you and pointing at your blocks. He wants to play with you."*
- I help my child respect the choices of others to play with him or not. I acknowledge and name his disappointment. I can accompany him if he wants to ask again.
- Before joining my child at play, I ask him if he wants me to join him.
- At the park or when visiting friends, I help my child from time to time when he shows interest in a game or a group of children without expressing it verbally. For example, if he is standing silently next to the other children playing, I invite him to ask the children if he can join them.

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