



the family values toolkit

For Children Birth to Age 2

This Month's Featured Value Is: **Generosity**

Generous people freely give or share what they value--such as possessions, money, time, or love--in a positive spirit. Giving makes them feel good, not deprived or resentful. Generosity is tied closely to empathy, since the reward for behaving generously is often the satisfaction of making someone happy.



What Can Parents Do to Nurture This Important Value?

First, Set Goals:

Instill the good feelings associated with giving and introduce the habit of sharing.

Infants are entirely focused on meeting their own needs and incapable of offering up something they value. This begins to change by about 8 months as they interact more consciously with others. A baby learns to enjoy handing objects to her parents because she loves their pleased reaction.

At the negative toddler stage, however, children feel that sharing their possessions diminishes their sense of self, while holding back furnishes a sense of control. It's easier for toddlers to give up things that aren't personally valuable to them. Parents can help kids become generous in several important ways.

Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Model sharing.** For instance, share a cookie with your child and point out, "Daddy shared with you." Mention frequently that sharing makes playmates happy.
 - ✓ **Start a charity collection jar for the whole family,** and give your toddler a coin to deposit regularly.
 - ✓ **When your toddler behaves selfishly, don't shame him or her.** Instead, ask gently if they may have something they *would* like to share with a playmate. Remind them how much *they* like it when others share with *them*.
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Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @

responsibilityproject.com/familyvalues