

## Toddlers behaving badly

**Toddler groups are a great place for little children to learn how to share, take turns, and interact with others, particularly if they don't already have a sibling. But we've all seen children at toddler groups who aren't behaving. What can we do?**

### 1 Remember that some things don't come naturally...

**Sharing** – if two children want to play with five little cars, that means two each, plus a spare – but little ones can't do the maths yet. In the same way, splitting a large lump of playdough three ways is probably beyond the ability of most two year olds! So we may need to help them share the toys fairly.

**Taking turns** seems simple to us, but this

needs a child to be able to judge time. We have watches to help us, but they don't. They simply know that when they haven't got the toy, someone else does! Seeing life through a child's eyes helps us to understand why they act the way they do.

**2 Simple rules** can help even young children. It's good to make these as positive as possible. Perhaps in your toddler group you could agree some good rules about looking after toys, and being kind and helpful.

If you want to know more about encouraging good behaviour, or how to deal with tantrums, why not ask your toddler group to organise a parenting discussion? Sharing ideas with other carers can really help.



## Email newsletters

Are you part of a stepfamily, or a single parent? Does your child have additional needs? Have you been bereaved of a child or widowed at a young age? Care for the Family produces free email newsletters providing information and support if you are finding family life challenging.

- Single Parent Family
- Life in a Stepfamily
- A Different Journey for young widows and widowers
- The Bereaved Parents' Network Newsletter
- Another Way for families with additional needs children

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## Biting: a mum's experience

Biting is usually an issue at some point – either because your child has been bitten or is the one doing the biting!

"I was given loads of advice, much of it contradictory, but there's no easy answer."

"My child quickly learned it was wrong to bite, but it took him longer to learn to control his reactions. Biting was usually frustration - or sometimes just over-excitement."

"My youngest child never bit. I realised then - I wasn't a bad parent - it's just some children bite, others never do."

"If you're lucky enough to have a child that doesn't bite – please have sympathy for those of us that do!"



## Your Family Charity

Care for the Family has been supporting and encouraging families in the UK since 1988. Its family-building events have been attended by over 320,000 people and many more have been helped through special initiatives - including stepfamilies, bereaved parents and those parenting alone. Founded by best-selling author and speaker Rob Parsons, the charity is committed to strengthening family life and helping those who face family difficulties.

The information in this handout is supplied in good faith, but Care for the Family cannot accept responsibility for any advice or recommendations made by other organisations or websites.