

Pointers For Parents

Tips On Teaching Children To Care And Share

(NAPSA)—Most parents aspire to raise children who are kind and caring, who know how to share and get along well with others. Modeling positive behavior is one of the best ways for children to learn how to act, but there's still more that parents can do.

Sylvia Rimm, Ph.D., psychologist and clinical professor at Case School of Medicine, offers these tips for everyday sharing and caring at home:

- Provide your children with language to practice sharing, such as "Let's take turns."

- Be patient when teaching sharing, as it may take time for your child to grasp the behavior.

- Be prepared to use repetition, possibly hundreds of times, before a good behavior is learned.

- Provide plenty of great opportunities to share with others during the day.

- Recognize and verbally reward a positive sharing act each day.

- Model caring for your children by helping an elderly neighbor or doing a good deed.

- Model kindness to your children by volunteering your time for others in need.

- Be united in your efforts with family members or spouse to teach sharing and caring by placing equal emphasis on these values.

In addition, Dr. Rimm recommends preparing children for the proper way to interact with others. This includes coaching children on how to care for pets and



A group of lovable, colorful characters can help teach children the key concepts of sharing, caring and compassion.

how to help care for younger siblings, as well as encouraging them to be gentle to younger children.

For many youngsters, the concepts of caring and sharing can be introduced early with the help of some animated pals and a colorful brand of friendship and compassion. Characters such as the Care Bears help promote understanding and positive values, as they are always there for children in need of affection.

Now parents and children can revisit the classic tales of those loving bears with MGM Home Entertainment's release of the 25th Anniversary Edition DVD of "The Care Bears Movie." The collectible DVD features the first-ever Care Bears television episode, which hasn't been available since its original broadcast. Two four-episode DVD volumes are also available to provide more positive reinforcement.

For more information about the Care Bears and the anniversary DVD, families can visit the Web site at www.care-bears.com.