



Encouraging Generosity in Children

The Art of Giving

It's Better to Give Than To Receive?

Most Children Would Absolutely Not Agree



Beverly Weathington, LMSW
MPSI, Community Engagement Coordinator
www.mpsi.wayne.edu



Why do We Want to Encourage Children to be Generous and Giving?

- Helps to understand feelings/needs of others
- Helps to develop empathy and compassion for others
- Helps to realize the positive impact that they have on others
- Helps to develop and understand gratitude

You are Your Child's Model of What It Means to be Generous

Have they seen and heard you:

- Taking their and other's feelings into consideration
- Noticing and offering help when it is needed
- Offering assistance when it might be inconvenient
- Giving without the expectation of being acknowledged
- Pointing out acts of kindness that you see in others

Show How to Be Generous With Feelings

- Kindness
- Caring
- Empathy
- Understanding



Demonstrate Being Generous With Words



Compliment



Encouragement



Advocate



Praise

Show Your Child How to Be Generous with Time

- Be patient as you are teaching a new skill
- Volunteer in you neighbor/community
- Perform an unexpected kindness for a neighbor (rake leaves, bake cookies, shovel snow)
- Support a cause that has meaning to you

Help Your Child Be Generous with Belongings

- Help young children understand concept of sharing (takes time)
- Sort and donate toys
- Have child pick out a gift for a sibling/friend and present it
- Save for a charity as a family project

When Child Does Not Want to Give or Share

Resist the temptation to:

- Shame
- Embarrass
- Cause Guilt
- Force It



Things to Keep In Mind

Children, especially young children, need help to focus on others

Children are more likely to demonstrate what they see you do

Some days we all feel more generous than others - that's okay

Generosity can be shown in many ways

There are some things that should not have to be shared

Allow your child to make some decisions about how they'd like to show generosity