

JULY

"I CARE"™

Positive Parenting Concept:

Help Your Toddler To Be Social

*Message to
Parents and
Caring Adults*

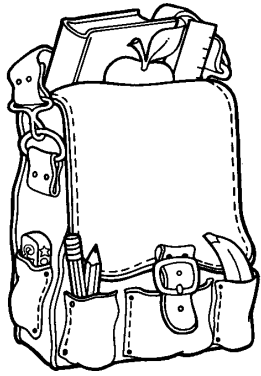
*Your toddler must learn to be courteous, friendly,
cooperative, and caring. It takes time.*

Parenting Activities

1. Teach "please" and "thank you" and other polite words to your toddler. Model these words when you talk to your child and to others.
2. Encourage your toddler to talk on a play telephone with friends or family. You can make a phone from a box or an item around the house such as a tin cup. As the toddler matures, allow him/her to actually talk on the phone to others.
3. Invite children and parents over to play. The toddler will play beside the children and learn much from them even if they don't play together. You will enjoy being with the adults.
4. Take your toddler with you on short visits to friends' homes. The toddler could take flowers or a picture to neighbors or shut-ins.
5. It is important for a toddler to learn to trust adults. Always explain to a toddler what is happening even if it is unpleasant (such as a doctor's visit). It also helps to explain to your toddler delays such as waiting for a turn.

Read to and with your child each day.





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Read *When I Care About Others* by Cornelia
Maude Spelman

Your toddler must be cared for to learn to be caring to others. Talk about ways to be caring and help the toddler realize that he/she must be caring too. *Ring Around the Rosie* is a good social game for toddlers to play.

Ring Around the Rosie

Ring around the rosie,
A pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down!

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Extensions for Teachers and Caring Adults *Help Your Toddlers To Be Social*

1. Read *When I Care About Others* by Cornelia Maude Spelman to small groups of toddlers. This is a wonderful book to help toddlers learn to be caring to others.
2. Decide which polite words are to be used in your classroom and model them. Praise the toddlers for using these words.
3. School is the first step into a social world for most toddlers and there is much to learn. During daily interactions in which you have to mediate or discuss behavior, you can help toddlers become more cooperative and caring. The group as a whole can be caring and make cards or dictate letters to take to sick friends.

Read to and with children each day.

