



BACK HOME

By Michelle S. Rodgers

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Home Economist

The Battleground-Sharing!

We survived ten hours in the car together, a lack of showers due to a dry well, and less than favorable ski conditions on our recent vacation. However, little did I realize that the real challenge of the week would be to negotiate between five children, three of which were all around one-and-a-half-years-old. And the issue of negotiation almost always seemed to revolve around the sharing of the mutual pile of toys.

Sharing — a tough topic for parents. It often ranks right up there with discipline and toilet training as a much discussed issue. Right or wrong, we often judge the amount of concern children have for others by judging one characteristic, and that is their willingness to share. Also, our definition of sharing is often narrow. We limit sharing to that of giving materials.

But sharing also involves time, space, attention and affection. These areas are often shared willingly by even very young children. Yet, as adults we fail to recognize that they are engaging in real

sharing behavior. As I reflect back on our vacation, I realize the many times our "only child" had willingly shared our attention and our affection with the other children.

Learning to share is a life long process. Below are a few suggestions that might help with the sharing principle in your family. First, remember that sharing is not only the giving of materials. Recognize the many times your child shares affection, such as the hug with the friends who stopped over for the evening or with another sibling. Appreciate the times your child shares your attention and time while you are involved in other activities. There are many opportunities when children share space, such as the play corner of the doctor's office or the addition of another highchair at the table. Recognizing these aspects of sharing will build a positive basis for sharing of material things.

With children under two, we can begin to teach sharing by giving a child two cookies . . . one for the child to keep and one to give to another child. As children mature through the next two years,

they can learn to give the cookie to another child and then receive a cookie for themselves. Later a child can learn to share one cookie by breaking it in half.

Another way to encourage sharing of material things is to talk to your child about sharing at times other than when they are involved in a battle over the toys. When we only discuss sharing while on the "battleground" it becomes an unpopular thing to do! How about calling it "sharing" when you both work together and put the clothes into the washer or when you carry a bucket together. If we could focus on these fun sharing times we would not build such a negative feeling of sharing.

By recognizing that sharing is a difficult process, we can also plan for it. Take along several toys for your child when you go visiting. Designate one toy that is theirs and does not have to be shared. Then help supervise the sharing of the other toys. The one item that does not have to be shared may provide the security to share all of the other toys.

Only with maturity comes the ability to go without in order to share with someone younger or in greater need. Every child needs to feel that he is a worthwhile individual. Before we can reach out to others, we must feel comfortable with ourselves. The same is true for children. Children who feel they are loved, wanted and capable at an early age are able to show concern for others at a much younger age than children who feel unsure of their personal worth.

If children feel good about themselves, they learn to share by choice. Recognizing the many areas in which children learn to

share can help us respond in a more positive manner to behavior learned by our children. After all, as an adult, I still find it sometimes challenging to share. Our enjoyable vacation was also a time

of sharing our time, affection and space with twelve other people. Perhaps our community and country would be a happier place if we more appropriately modeled some more sharing with those around us!

Adams County Potato Judging

The Adams County 4-H potato judging team placed first at the annual state competition held during the 1989 Farm Show. The A division team members were Scott Gibson of New Oxford, Bill Gilbert of Fairfield, Dan Ludwig of Gettysburg, and Kristi Mummert of East Berlin.

Adams County had two B division teams, which placed first and third. The first-place B team consisted of Christy Waybright of Gettysburg, Christy Pressel of New Oxford, Amy Miller of New Oxford, and Travis Green of Gettysburg. The third-place B team members were Emily Miller of New Oxford, Angela Light of Gettysburg, and Arlyn Meyers of

Gettysburg.

The individual placings for combined divisions are as follows: Scott Gibson was first-place individual with 450.75 points; Amy Miller was third-place individual with 425.75 points; Dan Ludwig was the fourth-place individual with 419 points; Bill Gilbert was the seventh-place individual with 412.50 points; and Christy Waybright was the ninth-high individual with 411.50 points.

The contest consists of deciding if each of 100 potatoes is in or out of grade; identifying 20 potato defects on 40 potatoes; and placing two classes of four plates of potatoes.

Sampler Quilt Class

YORK — If you have admired the beautiful sampler quilt displayed at fairs and quilt shows, here's your chance to learn to make one. The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service is offering an eight session class "Let's Make a Sampler Quilt" which started January 31, 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. at the Extension Meeting Room in the County Departments Building, 112 Pleasant Acres Road.

The class will meet every other week until May 9. Sheila Arnold, a member of the local Quilters Guild, will teach advanced piecing and applique techniques as well as methods for marking and setting lap quilted squares together. This whole quilt will be made without using any quilting frames.

Advanced registration is required. Call 757-9657 for more information on cost and registration.

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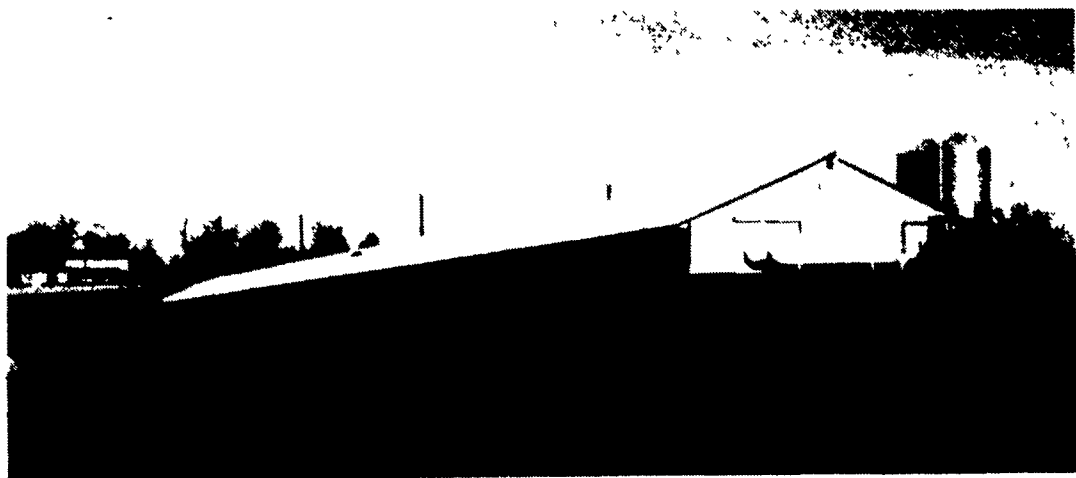
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