

## A Note to Those Who Work with Children

Sharing, an abstract concept, can be difficult for children, with their concrete minds, to understand. The Week of Compassion theme, "Sharing Brings Joy," may seem odd, if not downright wrong, to the youngest members of the congregation. Leaders in the field of child development suggest that most children cannot grasp the concept of sharing before approximately age six, although some very compassionate souls can begin to understand around age four. (You may even have encountered some adults who have trouble sharing!) Children have to learn to share. And it can take years before sharing seems like a natural and good thing to do.

It may be helpful to prepare the children in your congregation for the Week of Compassion offering by using some of the resources listed below in the weeks before the offering is received, to familiarize the children with the concept of sharing. Other good resources may be available through your local library.

- [The All-I'll-Ever-Want Christmas Doll](#) by Patricia C. McKissack (New York, NY: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007)
- [The Big Birthday Surprise: Junior Discovers Giving](#) by Dave Ramsey (Brentwood, TN: Lampo Press, 2003)
- [The Boy Who Wouldn't Share](#) by Mike Reiss (New York, NY: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2008)
- [Chubbo's Pool](#) by Betsy Lewin (New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1996)
- [The Delicious Bug](#) by Janet Perlman (Toronto, Canada: Kids Can Press, 2009)
- [It's My Birthday](#) by Pat Hutchins (New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 1999)
- [Little T Learns to Share](#) by Terrell Owens (Dallas, TX: BenBella Books, 2006)
- [The Mine-o-saur](#) by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen (New York, NY: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2007)
- [My New Sandbox](#) by Donna Jakob (New York, NY: Hyperion Books for Children, 1996)
- [The Rainbow Fish](#) by Marcus Pfister (New York, NY: North-South Books, 1992)
- [Sharing Christmas](#) by Kate Westerlund (New York, NY: Minedition, published by Penguin Young Readers Group, 2007)
- [The Story Blanket](#) by Ferida Wolff and Harriet May Savitz (Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2008)
- [Why Should I Share?](#) by Claire Llewellyn (Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, 2005)