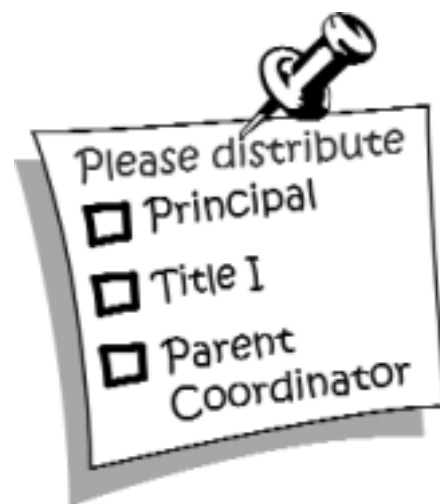


# Children Learn To Share

## Character Development



Dear Leader:

In these uncertain and difficult times the virtues of sharing, caring, and living peaceably come to mind and push us to take action. How can we help children develop these traits that bolster and reassure them when violence and ugliness surround them?

This month, as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we first turn our attention to sharing resources. Our nation has a grand tradition of sharing material goods with those who are in need. Families gather at Thanksgiving to share love, family ties, and good food. Our common bonds are strengthened through the act of sharing time, stories, and dinner.

This is the perfect time, then, for emphasizing sharing, because it will bring us closer together and reassure our children that they are surrounded by good people and they themselves can share good things with others.

## Parent Bulletins Draw Schools and Families Together

Character development has become a major effort across the country. Therefore, we continue to bring you our series of bulletins on character traits that parents and school can shape together. Enclosed is a bulletin from ERIC and the Family Learning Association. The current topic is sharing. The list of bulletins for the fall semester are:

- **September**      **Responsibility**
- **October**        **Honesty**
- **November**      **Sharing**
- **December**      **Caring**
- **January**        **Living Peaceably**

**More character education topics will follow during the second semester.**

Children need our guidance in the development of traits that will help them become strong, productive citizens. If both the school and the home work on a series of common attitudes, our chances for effective character development increase significantly.

**Please review the Parent Talk Bulletin inside and consider sharing it with the parents and teachers of your school.**

## **How can we help you achieve your priorities?**

ERIC and the Family Learning Association have service missions, that is, they build information systems and information resources to promote the education of children and other learners. For that reason we are enclosing a copy of Parent Talk on Sharing and encourage you to distribute it to all your parents. Some large cities are sending copies of Parent Talk to all the elementary school parents in the city.

If this issue matches your priorities, it may be duplicated for educational purposes. Copies are also available from us in packs of 25 for the low cost of \$15/pack. I doubt that you will be able to reproduce them for less. For large quantity discounts, call 1-800-759-4723.

Visit our web site for a wide variety of free resources-lesson plans, research summaries, policy documents, stories online for children and parents together. <http://eric.indiana.edu> We have an extensive section devoted to character education. Don't miss it.

There is an interactive bookstore on our web site, and you should feel free to call our 800 number for information and for catalogs for teachers or for families.

### **New items now available focus on character education.**

- **New calendars** for parents give weekly hints and activities on specific traits-November is Sharing
- **New bookmarks** for parents and for children show web sites and practical hints. They are available on 15 different topics. In the enclosed bulletin we have reproduced the bookmark on Sharing.
- **Books on teaching values** at home and at school help parents and teachers.

**You can see that we try to serve you in a variety of ways.**

**All you have to do is to contact us and let us know how we can help you.**

**<http://eric.indiana.edu>    <http://www.kidscanlearn.com>**

**1-800-759-4723**

Sincerely,



Carl B. Smith, Director  
ERIC/REC





# Parent Talk

Research findings in education and ways to help your child

## Sharing

### Volunteer of the Year

Volunteers are so valuable that we honor them every year as Volunteers of the Year. These are people who have given their time over many years to the work of the organization that honors them. They have shared their time and energy for the good of the community.



Marla was one of those people. As a teenager she helped initiate and staff a hotline for teens, giving troubled youth a place to talk about their problems with alcohol and drugs. In college she shared her time with a little sister in the Big Sister Program. Later she volunteered at a day care center for the elderly.

**"I have time and health," she said.  
"I can share what I have."**

The very fact that organizations honor volunteers in a public manner shows our belief that sharing is a character trait that we admire in our society. The person who shares some of his gifts gets the respect of his fellow citizens. It is our common belief that a good person shares his or her gifts and resources.

Voluntary sharing, therefore, marks the respected citizens, because they donate something they are not required to give. If we are forced to share, as we are when we pay taxes, there is no virtue in that. Sharing is a difficult attitude to develop, especially in young children. But through talk, example, and planned action we can gradually develop this important belief in our children. How? Here are examples:

#### 1. Use slogans.

- We must give back some of our gifts.
- Share with those less fortunate.

#### 2. Build attitudes through example.

- Regularly take goods to agencies such as Goodwill and St. Vincent de Paul.
- Contribute money to health research or to a church.
- Volunteer to clean a section of highway or a park.

#### 3. Ask your children to donate.

- A toy or some clothes to a charity or to a needy family.
- A couple of hours to clean an elderly neighbor's yard or to read to someone in a convalescent center.

By doing and repeating these types of activities, you work on the mind, the heart and the action centers of your children's personality.

<b>inside this issue...</b>	Sharing - Volunteer of the Year.....	1
	Character Education Calendar Page for Sharing .....	2-3
	Non-Material Sharing & Sharing Checklist .....	4
	Character Education Webmarks on Sharing.....	5
	Written Conversations.....	6
	Resources .....	7

# NOVEMBER

"There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those." -Mother Teresa



## WEBSITES

What is sharing?

<http://www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/sharing.htm>

Great advice on sharing.

<http://www.fortdodge.org/charactercounts/charactercorner0601.htm>

Activities that Parents & Children can do together

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/prcschoolers.htm#PreschoolActivities>

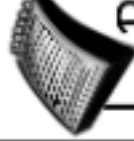


## ACTION STEPS

- ★ Have a weekly family fun night.
- ★ Spend one hour a week with each child alone.
- ★ Find out one area where your child is struggling. Listen to your child's concerns.

# SHARING

**Definition:** Expending time and effort to help others.



## ACTIVITY Pick Up Toys

Source: [preschoolrainbow.org](http://preschoolrainbow.org)

This preschool activity encourages very young children to notice and retrieve toys or manipulatives that may have fallen to the floor.

**Description:** When toys fall to the floor, begin singing this song softly to remind others that there are items on the floor that need to be picked up. (Sung to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Pick up, pick up, pick up toys, Every little girl and boy.

Look around and you will see, All the things that shouldn't be.

Pick up, pick up, pick up toys, Every little girl and boy.

## Ghost in the Graveyard Treats

**Materials:** 4 oz. cups, instant chocolate pudding, Milano® cookies, black gel frosting, Oreos®, baggies, milk, and marshmallow fluff.

**Directions:**

1. Make pudding, fill each cup half way from the top.
2. Have children crush up Oreos® in baggies while waiting for the pudding to chill.
3. Add crushed Oreos® to pudding with one Milano® cookie as the grave.
4. Then give each child a Milano® cookie and let them add 1 spoonful of marshmallow fluff, as a ghost. Decorate eyes and mouth with the black frosting.



## BOOKS



## DID YOU KNOW...

Princess Diana was president or patron of over 100 Charities.

- The Giving Tree - Silverstein
- The Velveteen Rabbit - Williams
- The Table Where Rich People Sit - Baylor
- Harriet's Halloween Candy - Carlson
- The Boy Who Dreamed of an A-Corn - Caster

**SUN**

**MON**

**TUES**

**WED**

**THURS**

**FRI**

**SAT**

Heroes of the Month  
 Mother Teresa - Humanitarian, Leader of  
 Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta  
 Princess Diana - Did much of her work to benefit  
 the homeless, disabled, and children with AIDS

4

5  
Word of the Week  
Generosity

6

7

8

9

10

11  
Veteran's Day

12  
Sacrifice

13

14

15

16

17

18

19  
Unselfishness

20

21

22  
Thanksgiving Day

23

24

25

26  
Cooperation

27

28

29

30

31

These calendar pages are taken from the special Character  
 Education Calendar. Call us today to order these calendars.  
 Family Learning Association, 3925 Hagan Street, Suite 101  
 Bloomington, IN 47401 1-800-759-4723

# Non-material Sharing

Mostly, we associate sharing with the giving of money, clothes, furniture, and perhaps the giving of time. But we can also share information and good will or optimism.

When we share information, we share a resource that is as valuable to some as food or clothing. Just think of the valuable hints that you have received about cooking, neighborhood schools, places to shop, tax information, doctors, ministers, and so on. Translate information sharing into the lives your children lead and recommend to them that they can help people by sharing

- Games to play
- Parks to play in
- Fun books to read
- Shows to watch
- Teams to join
- Programs to lift your spirit

Don't forget about good wishes. You share your optimism when you wish good to someone—health, safe travel, happy holiday, happiness for the future. Often these wishes are expressed as everyday courtesies that you give to friends and schoolmates. They may also show up in your prayers. You are sharing your belief in a higher power when your prayers say take care of my friends and give them

- Good health
- Peace after a tragedy
- Happiness
- Success on tests
- Safety

Admittedly the easiest things for children to share are material goods. As concrete thinkers, children understand better the giving of goods and money. But do not sell them short. If they work to find information for a friend, they will begin to appreciate the value of sharing ideas and good will.

## My Sharing Checklist

Here is a way to work through examples of sharing with your children. Ask them to add as many examples from their experience as they can imagine. Start with any group, such as neighbors, and give examples of what they might share in time, dollars, information and good wishes.

People and Groups		Time	Money	Information	Good Wishes
Home	Brothers & Sisters				
Neighborhood	Neighbors				
Friends	Personal				
	Classmates				
School	Teachers				
	Custodians				
Associations	Churches				
	Clubs				

# Character Development is a year-round effort!



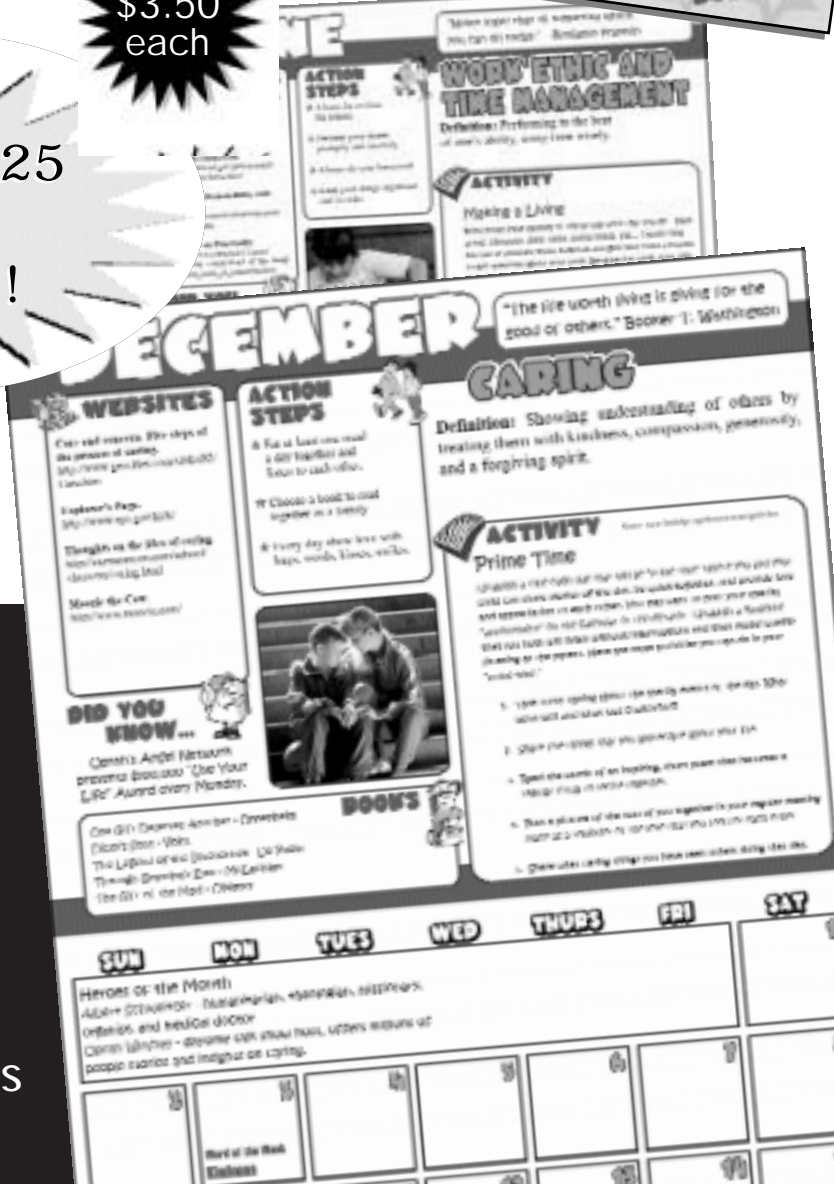
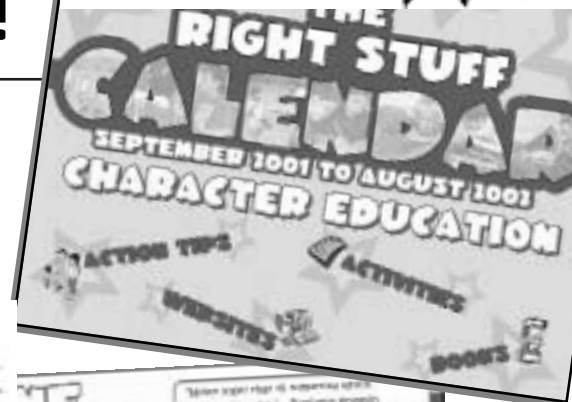
Get kids thinking about what makes a good citizen and student with the NEW ERIC and Family Learning Association's **Character Education Calendar**.

Give these great handouts to parents and kids. Kids will love the cool design and content. Parents will love how they spark questions about character.

Kids can use them at their desks, hang them in their bedrooms, or parents can put them on the refrigerator...each month highlights a strong character trait and offers engaging content to help character growth in our children!

**\$3.50 each**

**pack of 25 for \$39.95!**



Each month includes:

- ❁ Weekly Activities
- ❁ Vocabulary
- ❁ Action Tips
- ❁ Heroes of the Month
- ❁ Books
- ❁ Websites for Parents & Kids
- ...&more

**Each month highlights a specific trait:**

- Responsibility • Honesty • Sharing • Living Peaceably • The Golden Rule • Respect for others • Service and service learning • Work ethic & time management • Integrity and being trustworthy

(Order No.: PO-475-2155)

**1-800-759-4723 • www.kidscanlearn.com**

# Make Character Education a Priority!

## Handout Thought-Provoking Character Development Bookmarks

**NEW!** Parents & Kids Series!

### SIDE 1: Latest Web Sites

Lists fun and inspiring sites that will make **Kids** think that character development is the latest and the coolest. **Parents** will find instructive sites to help them raise adults we can be proud of.

### SIDE 2: Quick Action Steps

**Kids** receive practical reminders, tips, and guidelines to help them practice a particular character trait. **Parents** gain access to quick action steps to help in a child's character development.

Choose from

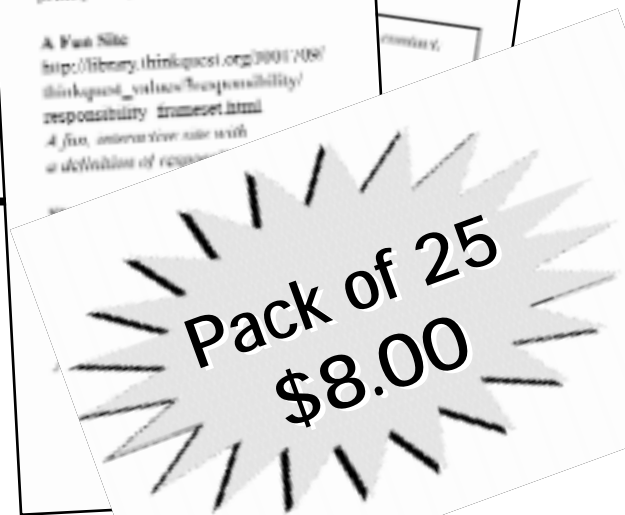
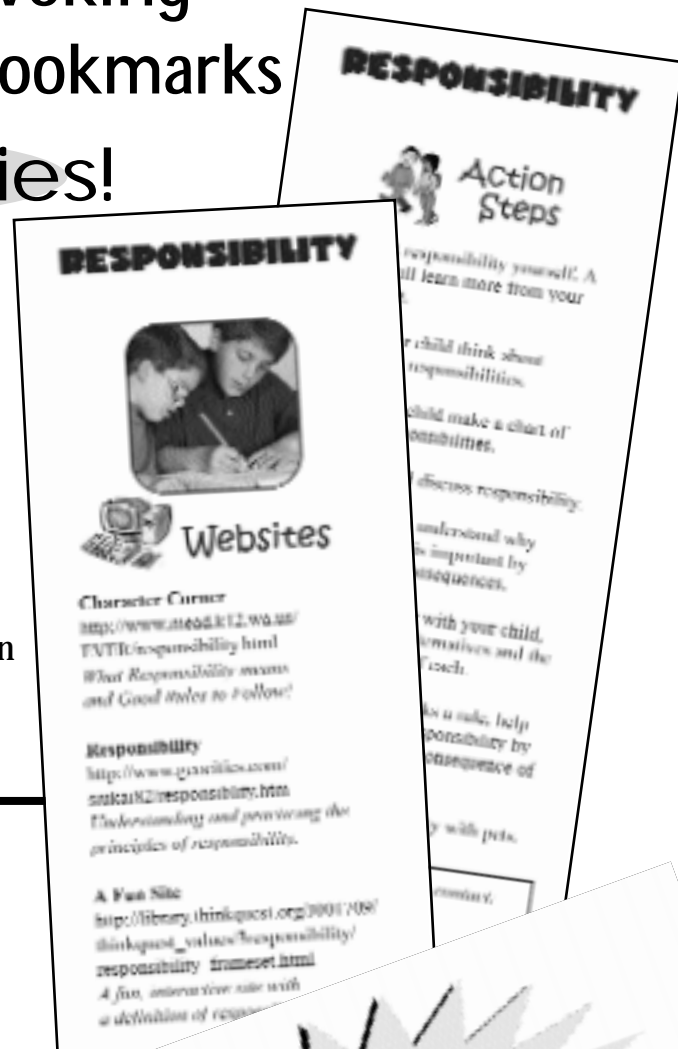
**28 Character Trait Bookmarks!**  
14 for Parents & 14 for Kids

Respect Authority • Integrity  
Work Ethic • Service Learning  
Civic Virtue • Respect Others  
Golden Rule • Living Peaceably  
Caring • Sharing • Honesty  
Responsibility • Courage  
Cooperation

To order:

see **Parent Resource Order Form**

Series of 14  
only  
**\$89.99!**



Bookmark	Parents	Kids
Respect Authority	PO-275-2181	PO-275-2180
Integrity	PO-275-2179	PO-275-2178
Work Ethic	PO-275-2177	PO-275-2176
Service Learning	PO-275-2175	PO-275-2174
Civic Virtue	PO-275-2173	PO-275-2172
Respect Others	PO-275-2171	PO-275-2170
Golden Rule	PO-275-2169	PO-275-2168
Living Peaceably	PO-275-2167	PO-275-2166
Caring	PO-275-2165	PO-275-2164
Sharing	PO-275-2163	PO-275-2162
Honesty	PO-275-2161	PO-275-2160
Responsibility	PO-275-2159	PO-275-2158
Courage	PO-275-2183	PO-275-2182
Cooperation	PO-275-2185	PO-275-2184

# Character Education Bookmarks

1-800-759-4723

## SHARING



## Websites

**Activities that Parents and Children can do together!**

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/preschoolers.htm#Preschoolactivities>

### Word Search

<http://www.charactercenter.com/wordsearch/wordsearch.htm>

### Whootie Owl's Fairytales.

<http://www.storiestogrowby.com/>

### Good TV Habits.

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/tv\\_habits.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/tv_habits.html)

### Possible Signs of Internet Addiction

[http://www.canoe.ca/LifewiseFamilyTuesday01/0301\\_internet\\_par.html](http://www.canoe.ca/LifewiseFamilyTuesday01/0301_internet_par.html)

ERIC and the Family Learning Association have several Webmarks on character development traits for parents, children and teachers. Webmarks are available on all of the standard character education topics. Call for a list or for specific web-mark samples.

## SHARING



## Action Steps

- ★ Watch a television show or movie with your parents together.
- ★ Share or talk to your parents about your school life.
- ★ Share with your parents both happy and sad events that happen in your life.
- ★ Lie under the stars together and talk about whatever crosses your mind.
- ★ Visit your grandparents as often as possible.
- ★ Solve puzzles and crosswords with your parents.
- ★ Discuss the book you have read with your family.
- ★ Plan a family fun night at least one night a week.

For more information, contact:



1010 West 10th Street, Ste. 140  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
(800) 759-4723

[eric@indiana.edu](mailto:eric@indiana.edu)  
<http://eric.indiana.edu>  
[www.kidscanlearn.com](http://www.kidscanlearn.com)

for children

275-2162

# Written Conversations

Regina and her ten-year-old son carry on a conversation by posting notes to each other on a bulletin board in his room. "Charlie, Thanks for clearing your toys off the floor." "You're welcome, Mom. Can I have Braden sleep over this Saturday?"

Not that these conversations couldn't and aren't also said in person, but their written conversations are special times for them together, distinct from what happens with other members of the family.

Written conversations may be as light-hearted as you want or they may be long term discussions of issues where you each need time to reflect. With a little prodding, you can gain allies among relatives, especially grandparents. If they know that you are working on character development, many will help you if they are asked. They can...

- Tell personal stories, glories or disasters
- Send books with notes: "I know you are working on learning to share. This book will give you some good ideas."
- Share thoughts: "Let's exchange our best thoughts. Here is mine..... I am enclosing an envelope so you can send me your good ideas."

Kids love to pass a conversation journal back and forth. Try a short journal that gives each member of the family, including distant relatives a chance to write something and then return the journal. *My Galaxy* from the Family Learning Association is an example of a short journal where many family members can add a paragraph about their memories and their dreams. See the next page for details.



## Letters to and from grandparents

Encourage grandparents to write to their grandchildren and to share in encouraging them. Give them books of sample letters and ideas that they can copy or imitate. Just the ticket for this purpose are *With Love, Grandma* and *Gotcha, Grandpa*. They show adults how to write to children of every age and interest. They make excellent gift books. For details about the books, see the next page.

## Why self-correction helps sharing ideas

We all want our children to put their ideas on paper and to share them with important people in their lives. But once they have laid their words on paper, they want to make sure that their reader understands their message. There are three basic things for every letter writer to do:

1. Re-read and learn to spot unclear sentences and confusing words.
2. Ask another to read and to point out unclear statements.
3. Make changes as indicated.

A parent-friendly guidebook on writing is *Improving your children's writing skills* from the Family Learning Association. This book gives guidelines and practical activities, especially aimed at helping children learn to read and to clarify their own papers. See the next page for details.

One-year subscription to **Parent Talk** \$18<sup>00</sup>  
**Parent Talk** is also available for distribution to  
parents in packages of 25: \$15<sup>00</sup>

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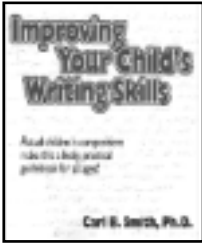
## Parent Talk

A publication of the ERIC Clearinghouse  
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Editor: Carl B. Smith  
Production Editor: James J. Proudfoot

Published by ERIC/REC & The Family Learning Association  
2805 East 10th Street, Suite 140, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698

# Resources



## Improving Your Child's Writing Skills

by Carl B. Smith  
Actual children's compositions make this a lively, practical guidebook for all ages! The many practical worksheets and guidelines give you and your child a thorough guide to improved writing, starting with early activity in the elementary grades.

Softcover, Grades 3-5, 149pp., 8.5"x 11"; \$14.95



## With Love, Grandma - Letters to Grandchildren

by Carl B. Smith  
This collection of sample letters and books to share is full of whimsical illustrations and drawings by children. The letters are drawn from Senior Partners Network; a group dedicated to letter-writing to at-risk kids. Subjects include holidays, family, the seasons, and school, with developmental charts and a lists of resources.

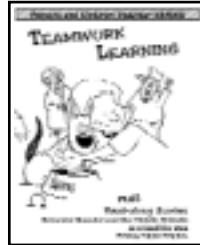
Softcover, Ages 3-14, 137pp., 6"x 9"; \$12.95

## Teamwork Learning

*Parents and Children Together*

Book and Cassette. Each audiobook contains three read-along stories delightfully illustrated, so children can start sharing reading experiences right away. The audiocassettes make these books easy for parents and children at any literacy level to learn and enjoy.

Softcover and Cassette, 86pp., 5.5"x 8.5"; \$12.00



## How to Talk to Your Children About Books

Start a conversation that will last a lifetime. This book teaches parents and tutors five easy techniques to prompt book discussions, guidelines for selecting books, how to make it a two-way exchange, plus motivation, values, and making it fun!

Softcover, Ages 3-14, 88pp.;

\$12.95



## My Galaxy of Memories, Feelings, and Dreams

by George and Marilee Tomek  
This writing journal for kids and their families provides an opportunity to record a year's worth of thoughts, activities, and ideas. My Galaxy is both an educational tool and a family involvement activity, helping children grow as writers and thinkers while facilitating family communication.

Softcover, 32 pp., 8.5"x11"; \$11.95



## Gotcha, Grandpa - More Letters to Grandchildren

by Carl B. Smith  
Open up a dialogue on many subjects and issues, including self-esteem, goals, persistence, heroes, lessons from history, and more. Each subject accompanied by actual letters from seniors, as well as age-specific book lists for sharing. Important essays discuss the benefits of cross-generational communication.

Softcover, Ages 3-14, 137pp., 6"x 9"; \$12.95

QTY.	ORDER NO.	TITLE	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
	P0-158-2021	Improving Your Children's Writing	\$14.95	
	P0-158-2025	With Love, Grandma	\$12.95	
	P0-500-1165	Teamwork Learning	\$12.00	
	P0-167-2113	How To Talk To Your Children About Books	\$12.95	
	P0-127-1730	My Galaxy	\$11.95	
	P0-158-2020	Gotcha, Grandpa	\$12.95	

## 3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER!

- PHONE (800) 759-4723
- FAX (812) 331-2776
- MAIL Family Learning Association  
3925 Hagan St., Suite 101  
Bloomington, IN 47401

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\$50.01 - \$250	10% of order	
\$250.01 +	8% of order	
	Shipping*	
	TOTAL	

**YOUR SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED!**  
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**YOUR CURRENT ISSUE FOCUSES ON**  
**SHARING AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

Parent Talk bulletins are for parents who help their children with learning. For more information and a free catalog call 800-759-4723

Please duplicate and distribute any information in this newsletter for parents to share with their children.

**Sharing – an American Tradition**

Americans are known for their generosity, for sharing their material good with people in need. This issue gives parents numerous ways to build a sense of sharing in their children, including sharing of non-material gifts.

Schools can use this bulletin as a way of bringing parents into school efforts to develop the traits of good citizenship. The building of character obviously involves both parents and educators. Character development starts with the family, then is promoted by the school.

**In this issue, you will learn**

- Three ways to change behavior
- How to use checklists to focus children's attention
- Four ways for grandparents to help build character traits
- Books and websites for parents
- Books and websites for children
- How writing helps develop an attitude of sharing
- And much more...

