

What Children Can and Cannot Do -

To the young child, all the world's focus is on "Me!" (S)he does not doubt that even the forces of nature are somehow centered around them. To enhance a child's total growth, we must first look "inside" to see things as (s)he sees them in order to know what they are ready for. On the following pages you will find the list of the things "children can and cannot do." This list is derived from Pardin's work on Child Development -- research she began in the 1930's. We have focused on the top four: Can't Share, Can't Take Turns, Can't Collect Information, Can't Empathize the rest are also listed on the last page.

Children Cannot Share

Children have to be allowed to fully possess before they can be expected to share.

Whenever you get in a power struggle with a child -- you lose.

No one seems to consider that the child being asked to give up what they have might be on the verge of a personal discovery important to their growth.

Relationships are easily ruptured as the result of "forced sharing."

Requiring children to share makes one child angry at you (as well as their classmate) and it makes the other child dependent on you to for rescue whenever the situation arises.

Forced sharing models that bullying is an acceptable way to resolve conflict.

Possession is one device the young child uses to hammer out autonomy. Just as babbling comes before talking, owning comes before sharing.