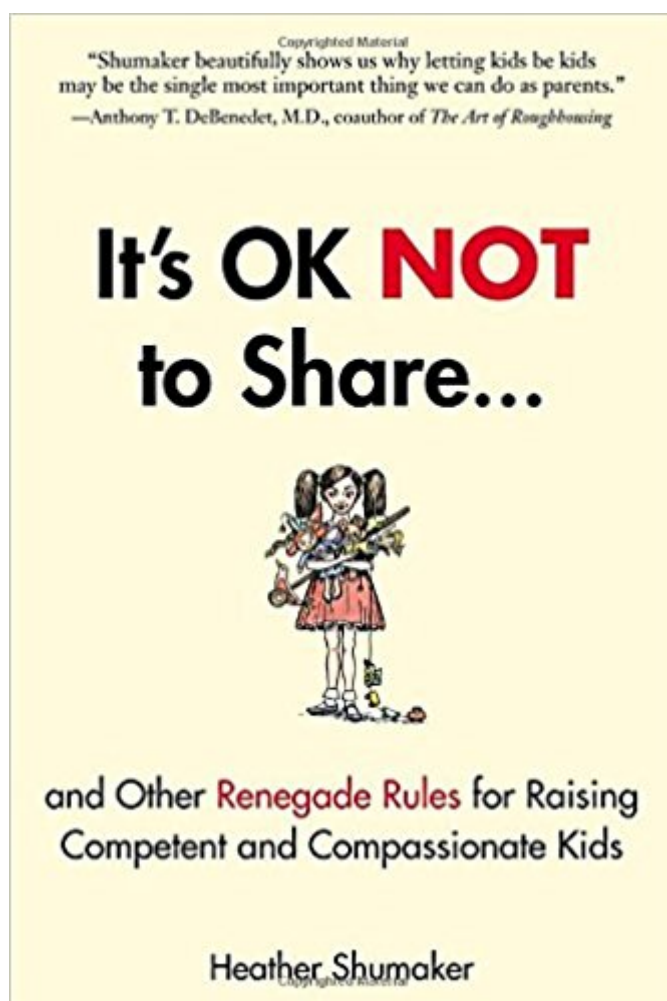


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# It's OK Not To Share And Other Renegade Rules For Raising Competent And Compassionate Kids



## Synopsis

Parenting can be such an overwhelming job that it's easy to lose track of where you stand on some of the more controversial subjects at the playground (What if my kid likes to rough house? Is it ok as long as no one gets hurt? And what if my kid just doesn't feel like sharing?). In this inspiring and enlightening book, Heather Shumaker describes her quest to nail down "the rules" to raising smart, sensitive, and self-sufficient kids. Drawing on her own experiences as the mother of two small children, as well as on the work of child psychologists, pediatricians, educators and so on, in this book Shumaker gets to the heart of the matter on a host of important questions. Hint: many of the rules aren't what you think they are! The "rules" in this book focus on the toddler and preschool years—an important time for laying the foundation for competent and compassionate older kids and then adults. Here are a few of the rules: It's OK if it's not hurting people or property. Bombs, guns and bad guys allowed. Boys can wear tutus. Pictures don't have to be pretty. Paint off the paper! Sex ed starts in preschool. Kids don't have to say "Sorry." Love your kid's lies. IT'S OK NOT TO SHARE is an essential resource for any parent hoping to avoid PLAYDATEGATE (i.e. your child's behavior in a social interaction with another child clearly doesn't meet with another parent's approval)!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Rarely do parenting books trigger in me an exhale. But the title alone for Heather Shumaker's new book came like that rare August breeze." [The Washington Post](#)

"On Parenting" "An insightful, sensible and compassionate book full of downright revolutionary ideas." [Salon.com](#)

"Brilliant. . . . It's OK Not to Share is an enlightening book that will make you take a second look at everything you believe." [Parents.com](#)

"Did you read the title and think, what the heck? Me, too. Not only did I read it to figure out the title, I underlined about a third of it's that good." [Melissa Taylor, ImaginationSoup.net](#)

"What an amazing book! [Shumaker] challenge[s] the parenting myths and fallacies that our society has embraced for so long." [Provider Resource Organization](#)

"A breath of fresh air." [Jane Pratt, founder of xoJane.com](#)

"These 'renegade rules' will resonate with what you know to be true, speak to what you want most for your children, and teach you how to achieve it. Don't let this one slip off your reading list." [Dr. Becky Bailey, author of Conscious Discipline and Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline](#)

"This beautifully written book. . . provides immediate, sanity-saving answers to tough parenting questions. I highly recommend it." [Michael Gurian, author of The Wonder of Boys and The Good Son](#)

"From 'Bombs, Guns, and Bad Guys Allowed' to 'I Hate You!' Is Nothing Personal,' the table of contents alone is music to my ears. Heather Shumaker is a healthy mom I can relate to and I'll bet you will too, when you hear out her logic." [Paula Spencer Scott, author of Momfidence!](#)

"A refreshing change from the usual admonitions. . . Shumaker's Renegade Rules are based on what children really need." [Lawrence J. Cohen, author of Playful Parenting](#)

"Shumaker beautifully shows us why letting kids be kids may be the single most important thing we can do as parents." [Anthony T. DeBenedet, M.D. coauthor of The Art of Roughhousing](#)

"A must-read for parents and teachers. This is a book you will want with you all the time." [Daniel Hodgins, author of Boys: Changing the Classroom, Not the Child](#)

"A no-nonsense commonsense approach. . . As you read this book, you will begin to feel the stress of parenting melt away." [Vivian Kirkfield, PositiveParentalParticipation.com](#)

Heather Shumaker is a journalist whose writing has appeared in Parenting, Pregnancy, Organic Gardening, and other publications. A frequent speaker on parenting topics and an advocate for free, unstructured play in homes and schools, she has a special passion for nonprofits; before turning to writing full-time, she worked for The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and many others. She holds an MS degree from the Institute for Environmental Studies

at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a BA from Swarthmore College. Heather makes her home in northern Michigan, with her husband, three chickens, and two children.

I own a family childcare home and consider this book a must-read for anyone working with children, whether you are a parent or an early childhood educator. There may be a few small points in this book that I do not love or agree with, but that doesn't make it any less valuable of a resource. I love that it has "what to say" and "what not to say" sections at the end of each chapter, so you can really internalize those phrases (and remember which ones to avoid) when you are in the moment helping a child work through a conflict or appropriately express their overwhelmingly intense emotions. Obviously blow-ups still occur, but it is so rewarding to hear my 2 years olds asking "are you using that?" "Can I have it when you are done?" Vs tearing a toy out of another child's hand- and the hitting, screaming, and crying fest that would inevitably follow

I LOVE THIS BOOK. I have 3 boys under the age of 5. Since starting this book, and utilizing the knowledge I now have, I'd say crying has decreased in my house by upwards of 80%. My husband has now started reading it, and I see him actually HAVING FUN! with the kiddos. No more yelling. Not only is their relationship benefitting, but our marriage is so much more fun to be a part of. Here's a few things that are so simple, yet so eye-opening from the book.- Toddlers and preschoolers need space to be toddlers. Understanding that, and creating space for that will solve a percentage of your problems. That does not mean to give them free reign to run amuck where ever/ when ever they feel like it, but it means you need to create the parameters for them to have that space.- Crying over taking turns, leaving a friends house, not getting a cookie, whatever the tantrum is about is less about not getting the desired response, and more about not knowing what happens next. This is what has worked magic in my house. Understanding what fuels my 2 year olds crying helps me to prevent that from happening. A simple "L is mad! He wants to play now! We will play first thing in the morning- as soon as you get up. Let's write ourselves a reminder." stops the tantrum before it starts.- Teaching kids to communicate their own needs is wonderful. I teach at a church. Helping to turn "tattling" into "I didn't like that. Please don't say that to me." is more fabulous than I can put into words. The ideas are simple, the results are phenomenal. I've bought this book for a friend, and am planning on purchasing it for many more. Anyone who reads it will have more satisfying relationships with any child in their life.

I LOVE this book. I love it so much I made my husband read it, bought it for my best friend, and

gave it as Christmas gifts to my sons preschool teachers and all of my daycare parents. I am not a big fan of reading 'parenting' books. They tend to be so bogged down with references and statistics they lose me somewhere in the 2nd chapter. This book is totally different. Heather's writing is so easy to read. I love the short chapters and the highlighted points at the end of each. Especially when she writes exact wording we should and should not be using with our children. As a child care provider I also feel this book is a MUST read for all providers. I have been using her advice in my home child care for almost 2 years now and the results are almost magical.

A must for every parent, grandparent and person who shares space with children. The best part for me is the emphasis on a child's view of reality. That is something I tried to do when my three daughters were growing up. It helps to NOT expect children to be adults or to know how to behave. My youngest daughter went to School For Young Children. My oldest went to a private elementary school that was somehow loosely related. Both of them went into fields of service to Humankind. I think that speaks well for the philosophy behind the schools and the eventually writing of this amazing book.

Sharing has been redefined by parents to mean giving up your crap to those who demand it. Not cool. Just ask your kid. Or better yet, I'd like to borrow your diamond ring. Not only does the redefining of a word dilute or change its meaning, it's lazy on the part of the parent. You want a happy kid? Read this book and then employ what you've read. Remove your pride from your parenting, use kind words when you speak to your children, quite saying, "good job," and let them experience the world without you telling them what to think or how to feel about it. I promise if you just try and then try again, it will give you and your children a happy more trusting/loving existence.

Seriously, love it. I've purchased several copies and given them out to friends, family members... honestly, I kind of want to give them out to strangers on the street, I like it that much. Not only do I really agree with the message, but the way this book is organized is phenomenal, makes it very easy to refer to later. The language is inclusive; does not assume the other parent is a dad, and does not assume that dad is a lazy bastard, which is something that drives me crazy about a lot of parenting books.

Every parent of small children should have this book, as should elementary school teachers.

I wish I'd bought this when my second son was born rather than 3 years later. It has great, practical advice for training kids on how to interact with other kids. I like that there were suggestions for what to say and not say to kids; how to speak to them so they know you understand them. This book changed my views on more than a few "typical" parenting viewpoints, and right away I could tell that my 6 year old was relieved that I was more understanding of his needs, while before I think I inadvertently over accommodated his little brother. Awesome book. Now I just need to figure out how to suggest that my younger son's preschool staff read this book. I love that it is not about punishment, but about training kids to be compassionate.

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