



## Ready to Read Along?

Ideas to start your book club discussion for

*It's OK **Not** to Share*

and

*It's OK to Go **Up** the Slide*

by Heather Shumaker

### ***Starter questions***

What elements need to be in place before *you'll* share?

How do you respond when a child chooses a play theme you don't like?

What were times when you felt respected or disrespected as a child?

What pressures do we get from the people around us?

How have your views changed over time as you've been parenting?

What type of play do kids naturally seem to want to do? What's your reaction?

What do you think a child needs most when she comes home from school?

Which of a child's needs are being met at school? Which ones are not?

What was homework like for you growing up? How do you think it's different today?

What are evenings like in your family?

What etiquette rules do you use for using screens? Do you think there's a common culture emerging on what's polite and what's not?

What bugs you about your screen use/ your partner's screen use or your children's?

What do you worry about when a child likes pink and plays princess?

What kinds of things did you do as a young child that took independence? (walking down the street, going to the store, cooking an egg)

When's the last time your family had a whole unstructured day? Do you feel the need to entertain children?

### *If you have one meeting*

Ask members what topics jump out at them.

Focus your time on those top issues.

### *If you have several meetings in the year*

Divide the book up into sections to bite off big topics one at a time

8 sections for *It's OK Not to Share*:

1. Play, limits and conflict
2. Wild emotions
3. Sharing and saying sorry
4. Friendship and Exclusion
5. Roughhousing, power and action
6. Toy Weapons
7. Creativity and Praise
8. Sensitive Subjects

8 sections for *It's OK to Go Up the Slide*:

1. Risk, safety and independence
2. Screens
3. Homework
4. Recess and other school topics
5. Kindergarten
6. Sorrow and Empathy
7. Mean words
8. Princesses plus