

Sample Q & A
It's OK Not to Share...
And Other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent and Compassionate Kids
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by Heather Shumaker

1. Your book's title is "It's OK Not to Share." Why is it OK not to share? Don't we want to teach our kids to share with others?
2. Your book creates "Renegade Rules" for parents. Let's look at some of these (choose 1-2)
 - Rule #17: "Only punch friends." Can you explain that?
 - Rule #23 "Kids don't have to say 'sorry'"
 - Rule #12 "You can't play = AOK"
 - Rule #24 "Let your kid swear"
 - Rule #19 "Boys can wear tutus"
3. These "Renegade Rules" seem pretty extreme. Where did you come up with them? What are they based on?
4. What's your background? How did you get to be an expert in this field of child development and education?
5. Your book says it's best to let preschool kids play, instead of teaching them to read. Isn't it important to get kids ready for kindergarten?
6. OK, if kids don't need math and reading in the preschool years, what *do* they need?
7. There's a lot of worry about violence today, from bullying to gangs to school shootings. Why do you think it's OK for four-year-old kids to play with toy guns?
8. In one of your sections you talk about creativity. Why do you argue *against* doing crafts with kids? Isn't making an egg carton caterpillar fun?
9. This rulebook is full of tools for parents to try at home. What's your favorite tool to use with your family?
10. You're a mom yourself. What's your experience writing this book? What's it like to write a book and raise little kids at the same time?
11. When I was in kindergarten, we mostly played and sang songs. Has kindergarten really changed? What are we expecting of kids today?
12. What are people getting *right* when it comes to young kids? What would you change? What do you wish you could tell parents?