



# PARENTS' CORNER

## Habit 4—Think Win-Win • *Everyone Can Win*



I remember the time my little girl Rachel wanted a dog. My wife, on the other hand, swore, "It's me or a dog! Take your pick!" They argued for months. Finally, Rachel wrote my wife a letter numbering the ways she would improve if she were allowed to have a dog. (I'll bet you can guess where the idea for "Lily Plants a Garden" came from.) To my utter amazement, my wife gave in. Rachel's letter was so persuasive.

Truly, thinking Win-Win, or always thinking about another as well as yourself, is one of the great mental habits we can teach our kids. After all, life isn't just about me, and it's not just about you—it's about both of us. In this story, point out that, at first, when Lily's mom didn't like Lily's garden idea, Lily had a choice to make. She could have pouted and said, "You never let me do anything!" That's called Lose-Win. Or she could have fought back, "I can plant a garden if I want to. So there!" That's called Win-Lose. But instead, she found a way to make both her mom and herself happy, a true Win-Win.

### Up for Discussion

1. What was Lily so excited about? Have you ever been super excited to do something? What was it?
2. Why was Lily's mom worried?
3. How did Lily convince her mom to go along with her plan?
4. In the end, why were both Lily and her mom happy? How did they both win?
5. Why is it important to think about making others happy as well as yourself?

### Baby Steps

1. Today ask an older person what the golden rule is. After you know, try it out on someone.
2. Try to go one whole day without sulking, pouting, or feeling sorry for yourself.
3. The next time you want to argue or fight with someone about who should get the best toy, ask, "How can I make you happy too?"
4. Make a "wish poster." Start by drawing a line down the middle. On one side, cut and paste magazine pictures of things you want (like an ant farm). On the other side, cut and paste pictures of things your mom or dad want (like a clean room). Together, look at your "wish poster." See how you can work with each other to make both your wishes and your parents' wishes come true.