

Friends

Teaching children about being good friends and caring for others is a lesson to be reinforced in all play activities. Invite your children to learn about friendship and encourage them to make new friends at school by providing them with activities that offer opportunities for interaction. Friends are our connection to the world around us and they help enhance self-esteem.



Ideas Compiled by:
Bright From The Start: Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning



Books about Friendship

A House for Hermit Crab, Eric Carle
I Have A New Friend, Kathleen Allan-Meyer
Little Blue and Little Yellow, Leo Lionni
Ton and Pon, Big and Little, Kazuo Iwamura
Will I Have A Friend? Miriam Cohen
Rosie and Michael, Judith Viorst
The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends, Stan and Jan Berenstain
Cat and Mouse, Tomek Bogacki
Jamaica and Brianna, Juanita Havill
Just My Friend and Me, Mercer Mayer
Margaret and Margarita, Lynn Reiser
New Friends, True Friends, Stuck-Like-Glue Friends, Virginia Kroll
When This Box Is Full, Patricia Lillie
Maebelle's Suitcase, Tricia Tusa
Everett Anderson's Friend, Lucille Clifton
We Are Best Friends, Alike
Let's Be Friends Again! Hans Wilhelm
A Friend For Oscar Mouse, Joe Majewski
Jamaica's Find, Juanita Havill
Best Friends, Miriam Cohen
My Friend Jacob, Lucille Clifton
Together, George Ella Lyon
Friends, Helme Heine
My Friends, Taro Gomi
The Rainbow Fish, Marcus Pfister
Do You Want To Be My Friend? Eric Carle
We Are All Alike... We Are All Different, Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarten
Bein' With You This Way, W. Nikola-Lisa
Jessica, Kevin Henkes
The Doorbell Rang, Pat Hutchins
Chrysanthemum, Kevin Henkes
The Very Best of Friends, Margaret Wild
A Visit to Amy-Claire, Claudia Mills
The Dream Pillow, Mitra Modarressi
An Extraordinary Egg, Leo Lionni
How To Lose All Your Friends, Nancy Carlson



Stellaluna, Janell Cannon

Eli, Bill Peet

The True Francine, Marc Brown

Miss Maggie, Cynthia Rylant

All I See, Cynthia Rylant

Old Henry, Joan W. Blos

Best Friends, Steven Kellogg

Rooster's Off to See the World, Eric Carle

Step by Step, Diane Wolkstein



Songs, Poems, Fingerplays

Good Morning, Friends

(sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Hi! Good Morning, friends.
How are you today?
Let's each try to be a friend
To everyone today!

Good-Bye, Friends

(sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Good-bye, friends. Good-bye, friends.
Time to go. Time to go.
Thank you, friends, for helping.
Thank you, friends, for sharing.
Love you so! Love you so!

Friendship Song

(sung to the tune of "Clean-up, clean-up...")

Friendship, friendship, everybody, everywhere,
Friendship, friendship, show somebody that you care.

The Sharing Song

(sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Are you sharing? Are you sharing?
Be a friend. Be a friend.
Sharing is caring. Caring is sharing.
Be a friend. Be a friend



Here We Go Round the Friendship Circle

(sung to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Here we go round the friendship circle,
The friendship circle, the friendship circle.
Here we go round the friendship circle
With our friends today.

*Use this as a transition to large group or circle time.

Friendship Song

(sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Friends hold hands. Friends hold hands.
Friends hold hands and smile.
All our classmates are our friends.
Let's sing with them a while.

Five Friends

(sung to the tune of "Five Little Speckled Frogs")

{Five} friends went out to play
On a bright and sunny day,
Running and jumping all around. (Yeah! Yeah!)
One said, "I cannot stay. I must go home today."
Now there are {four} friends left to play
OK!

(last verse)

One friend went out to play
On a bright and sunny day,
Running and jumping all around (Yeah! Yeah!)
One said, "I cannot stay. I must go home today."
Now there are zero friends left to play.
Oh no!



Make New Friends

Make new friends,
But keep the old,
One is silver and the other gold.

Friends Are Special

Friends are special, when they {sing} together,
When they {sing} together.
They can {sing} the whole day.
They can {sing} the night away.

Let children take turns coming up with words to replace {sing}.
{play, run, share, jump, etc}

Colors of Friendship

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer and the Dell")

Who is wearing red?
Who is wearing red?
Please stand up so we can see
Who is wearing red?

*Remembering names can be difficult for some children entering a classroom full of unfamiliar playmates. Use this activity to help children learn classmates names as well as colors. Change color names with each verse and invite the class to help choose and participate.



Large Group Ideas

All About Friends

Invite the class to join you in a circle time discussion about what it means to be a friend. Helping them to understand the nature of friendship can improve the social skills needed for cooperative play. To keep the discussion going, prompt the children with questions such as: What is a friend? How does a friend help you? Can you still be friends if you fight or argue sometimes? Encourage children to role-play some situations that might be mentioned.

Friends Cooperate

Children have to be taught how to compromise and work things out between themselves. Have the children practice this skill by reviewing shapes. Choose small groups of children to work together to use their bodies to create a shape. The group will choose a card from your pile with pictures of shapes on them to know which shape to make. They can choose from the pile as many times as they like as long as they are working together and cooperating.

*As the children are working on this, be sure to snap pictures of the "group shapes" to create a class book about shapes. These pictures also can go into the child's portfolio under the category of Social and Emotional. These pictures are also great to include in your class newsletter and to display in the room for open house.

Same and Different

Many times people become friends because they share many of the same interests. Even so, friends remain different people. Use your assistant to guide your children through the discussion of "same or alike" and "different". Draw a line down the middle of a large piece of chart paper to create two halves. Draw a picture of your assistant on one side and a picture of yourself on the other. Talk about how you and your assistant are "friends" and that you work together every day and "cooperate" to make sure your classroom runs smoothly. Ask them to notice things that are alike and different about each of you and label the characteristics on the chart as each one is recognized. Some prompting may have to take place. Be sure to discuss the fact that everyone is alike in some ways and



everyone is different in some ways, but that even though this is true, we can still be friends. You might notice: color of hair, eyes, or skin, short and tall, long hair or short hair, curly hair or straight hair, girl or boy, freckles, glasses, etc.

*To extend this activity you can have children work in "teams" during work time to create their own same and different chart about their friend in the room. It may even be someone who is not in the classroom that they may want to draw and compare. The teacher and assistant should help record noticed likenesses and differences on each child's work. You can also try to do this as a small group activity, but groups of 10 each are too large. It may help to have parent volunteers come in for this activity. **Be sure to save these for your portfolios!

Count on Friends

Create this class counting book by starting with a new roll of film. Start with one student and photograph him/her by himself. Then add a friend to join hands and take a picture of the two of them. Then add a third friend and so on until your whole class is included in the last picture. Mount developed pictures onto poster board and write the numbers and the number words under each picture and bind to create a class counting book. You can make double prints and create a class game. Mount the second print on a piece of tag board and laminate. Again, write the number and the number word under each picture. Have children put the pictures in order according to number. You can also do this backwards and also ask questions like which has the least, more, fewest, most, etc.

Circle of Friends

To prepare, gather a number of different wallpaper samples equal to half the children in your class. Make a tag board pattern of a person; then use it to trace and cut two people from each wallpaper sample. As children are coming to the circle give them a wallpaper person. Now, instruct the children to find their friend who has the same wallpaper person that they have. Have them sit in pairs around the circle with their "friend". Ask the children to talk with their friend and find out what each one's favorite color is. Have each pair share their results with the group. Repeat this activity for several days and ask a new question each time.



A Rhyme for a Friend

Gather your children in a circle and tell them you are going to say a silly chant about a friend in the class. Challenge the children to listen and then guess the name of the friend. As you chant the second line, replace the beginning sound of the child's name with another sound. Then pause in the next-to-last line to prompt students to fill in the correct name. Repeat the chant until all children's names have been used. Encourage children to chime in.

I have a friend
Whose name rhymes
With {Bim}.
Hey la-di, la-di, la!
I have a friend.
My friend's name is {Jim}.
Hey la-di, la-di, la!

Paper Pals

In advance fold a 6"x18" piece of construction paper in half twice so that it measures 4½" x 6". Draw a simple person figure on the folded paper making sure the arms go off the edges of the paper. As you begin, keep the drawing facing you and the blank side facing the children. Starting at one leg, begin slowly cutting along the lines of the doll as you make up a story about an imaginary child meeting classmates on the school playground, classroom, and center time. Be certain not to cut apart the folds. As you complete cutting the doll from paper, wrap up the story by telling how the child had made many new friends by the end of the day. Then unfold the paper to display a row of paper pals!



Friendly Faces

Help children in the class get to know the names and faces of all their new friends. Seat all children in a circle. Have your assistant escort one child out of sight and earshot from the rest of the class. Quietly direct another child in the circle to hide himself in a designated spot. Invite the first child back into the circle and chant the following:

Friends, friends, one, two, three.
Someone is hiding -
Who can it be?

Give the child a moment to see if he/she can figure out which friend is hiding. If he/she is uncertain, give clues. After the missing child is guessed and comes back, begin the game over! Play several days in a row to make sure everyone gets a turn.

The Friendship Circle

Write each child's name on a piece of paper and place all names in a shoe box. Have students sit in a circle. Draw one name at a time, and have that child tell his full name, age, favorite food, game, toy or hobby, etc. After each child's turn, sing this song to the tune of "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush".

Here we go round the friendship circle,
The friendship circle,
The friendship circle.
Here we go round the friendship circle,
With our friends today.

We Go Together

Gather a collection of items that go together - such as a vase and flowers, a baseball and bat, a stuffed dog and a bone. Discuss the items that go together and then place them in a box. Have each child close his/her eyes and take one item from the box. When each child has an object, ask him to find his partner by finding the person with the corresponding object. After playing the game, place the box of objects in a center for children to match independently.



Small Group Activities

Friendship Cards

Let the children create cards for their friends. Provide children with a variety of types and colors of paper, markers (big and small), crayons (big and small), pencils (big and small), colored pencils, etc. Have the student name the "friend" and tell what he or she likes about this friend. Write down the child's ideas inside the card. Let the children sign his/her own card. *This gives a purpose for writing!

Language Center

Calling All Friends

Make a student phone book by gluing a small photo of each child on a sentence strip or large index card. Then write the name and telephone number of each student by the picture. Laminate the cards and punch two holes at the top of each card and bind with two metal rings. Place this phone book of friends in your writing or language center along with a phone, notepad, pencils, pens, etc.

What's Your Friend's Name?

Glue a small picture of each child onto a small index card and write the child's name by each picture. Laminate each card for durability. Mount a piece of magnetic tape on the back of each note card. Place the cards in your language/writing area along with magnetic letters and a magnetic surface of some type. To use, place the note card on the magnetic board and then spell out the letters of the child's name under the note card that already has the names printed on it for the children to follow. Now we can spell our friend's names.



Literature Extensions

Franklin's New Friend

Paulette Bourgeois

Point out that Franklin doesn't want to be friends with Moose at first because he seems so different. Ahead of time, collect a small white egg, a large white egg, and a brown egg. Then show the children the eggs, and discuss the differences in size and color. Gently crack the eggs into a glass bowl. Now, explain to children that even though the eggs looked different on the outside, they were all the same on the inside. Help them to understand that people are the same way. We may look different on the outside, but on the inside we all have similar feelings and want to have a friend.

Together

George Ella Lyon

Transition children to story time by singing this song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If you'd like to read together,
Come sit down.
If you'd like to read together,
Come sit down.
If you'd like to read *Together*
'Bout a friendship built forever,
If you'd like to read together,
Come sit down.

Lead a large group discussion by having students complete the sentence, "We can _____ together". Let children take turns sharing what they do together with their friends.



We Are Best Friends

Aliki

Children will also enjoy writing to friends. Encourage children to write to new friends by arranging for them to write letters to pen pals. (You can do this with an older class at your school or a local school near your center.) Teachers can help the children dictate. Encourage the students to draw pictures of himself/herself and ask questions that they might want to know about the other student. Provide children with markers, crayons, pencils (all big and small), colored pencils, a variety of types and colors of paper, stationary, etc. Let children also help to address and decorate the envelope. Send the letters off and wait for the response! Be sure to arrange a meeting later so the children can meet their new friends. *Wow, what a purpose for writing!

How To Lose All Your Friends

Nancy Carlson

After reading this story about rules for losing all of your friends, have your children brainstorm ideas to keep all of your friends. Record all responses on blank sheets of paper and then create a class book by having children illustrate each new rule for keeping friends. This can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Role-play the rules for a large group activity.

Friends

Helme Heine

After sharing the book, discuss how the characters enjoyed each other's companionship as well as the tasks they accomplished together. Ask the children to think about who their good friends are. Then have each child draw a picture of himself/herself with friends and write (or dictate) a sentence about friends.



Do You Want To Be My Friend?

Eric Carle

After sharing this story, have children make friendship necklaces. Supply children with lengths of ribbon, yarn or cord and a supply of beads (one for each member of the class). Have children travel around the room and ask the question, "Do you want to be my friend?" As each child responds, "yes", have them to give a bead as a token of their friendship to string on his/her necklace. Each day they wear their necklace, they will be reminded of all their friends!

The Doorbell Rang

Pat Hutchins

Before reading the story use this idea to help children solve the math problem that will occur in the story. Show the children a plate of 12 cookies. Ask two children, each holding a plate, to stand beside the cookies. As a class, decide how to divide the cookies fairly between the two children. Then ring a bell and invite two more children in to stand with plates beside the first two children. Continue in this manner according to the book's text, until there are twelve children, each child with one cookie on his plate. Ring the bell once more. Again as the class how the cookies could be shared. Have each child take a seat and then read the story aloud. Ask the children for their comments on the surprise ending. Give each a surprise treat of chocolate chip cookies.

To extend the math from this story ask each student to find a partner. Announce a series of directions for students to follow with their partner. (Clap five times, etc.) Choose a different number with each direction you give. You can use this chant sung to the tune of "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush". Change the verse to match each set of directions.

Clap five times with your friend, with your friend, with your friend.
Clap five times with your friend; making friends is fun!



Cooking Experiences

Friendship Salad

In advance, send home a letter to parents requesting that each student bring in one piece of fruit on a chosen day.

Have children wash his or her fruit.

*Teachers may have to peel fruit as necessary.

Have each child use a plastic knife to cut his/her fruit into small pieces or slices.

Have each child place his/her cut-up fruit into a large bowl. Stir. Now let children serve up themselves a bowl full of "friendship" salad.

Lead a discussion about how each one came in with one piece of fruit. We all shared and now there is a great big bowl of a lot of different kinds of fruit. You can relate this to people by talking about sharing, ideas, working together, cooperating, etc.

Extensions: types of fruits, colors, seeds, peelings of the different fruits, etc. You can also graph the fruits, sort, etc. **This leads to a great class language experience chart, class book, story dictations, etc. This also makes a great conclusion to your "friend" discussion. **Parents can also be invited to the friendship salad activity. As the children are eating their fruit salad have them discuss some things they know and have learned about friends.

Bake a Batch of Friendship

Use a mix to prepare a white cake batter. Then fill a small cup with batter for each child. Invite each child to stir her choice of food coloring into her cup of batter; then have all children pour their batter into a greased sheet-cake pan. Swirl the colors together and let the children admire. Bake the cake according to directions on box. Once the cake has cooled, serve it with whipped topping and colored sprinkles.



OTHER FRIENDSHIP IDEAS

Clean-up Strategy

During clean-up time, display a different colored circle in each center or area in your room. Cut two smaller circles to correspond with the circle in each center. Store the smaller circles in a container. When clean-up time arrives, have each child select a circle from the container. Then pair the students with matching circles and request they work together to clean-up the area in the room with the same color circle. Encourage working as a team!

Little Buddies

Pair with a class of older children from a local school or within your school. Invite them to your classroom for different experiences throughout the year. It is recommended you meet every other week or at least once a month. Have the other class invite you to their class or school too.

The Friendship Bottle

In advance, purchase a small toy pendant with bubbles and wand. For added fun, embellish the bottle to make it sparkle. When students exhibit good friendly and cooperative behavior, blow the bubbles over the children to spread friendship throughout the classroom.

The Friendship Wand

In advance purchase or make a "magic wand". Follow the same suggestion as above, only just wave your magic friendship wand.

