

Activities to Teach

Friendship Skills

Puppet Role Play – Joining a Group at Play

Have 3 children volunteer to sit in the front of the circle and pretend to play with a board game. Tucker Turtle (puppet) approaches the group and watches the children playing

Tucker Turtle: “That looks like a fun game.”

Teacher: “Look everyone Tucker walked over to the group waited and then said something nice to his friends.”

Tucker Turtle: (Waits for another minute looking around) “Can I please play with you?”

Teacher: “See how nicely Tucker asked to play with his friends?”

Child: “Sure, Tucker, you can play with us.”

Tucker Turtle: “Thanks. What piece can I use?”

Friendship Bracelets – Sharing

Materials:

- Baker’s Clay (2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, water)
- Plastic Straws
- Tempura Paint
- Small Brushes
- String or Yarn

Have the children make beads with the clay and push a plastic straw through each one to make a hole. Allow beads to dry for at least 2 days. Have children decorate their beads and then trade beads with each other. Once everyone has a new set of beads, string them together with yarn to make friendship bracelets.

Puppet Play – Being a Friend

Use two puppets from your classroom. Act out the following script:

Puppet 1: (Crying, hands over eyes) “Boo-hoo! I don’t like preschool. No one here likes me or wants to play with me.”

Puppet 2: (facing the circle) “Oh my goodness! Look at _____. What is he doing?”

Children respond: Crying.

Puppet 2: “I feel sad that he is crying, but I don’t know what to do. Do you have any ideas?”

Children respond with ideas

Puppet 2: “Oh, that sounds like a good idea. I will ___ (e.g., give a hug).”

Puppet 1: “Thanks for giving me a hug. Will you play with me? Can we be friends?”

Puppet 2: “Sure, I will play with you. Let’s go to blocks together.”

Friendship Tree – Identifying Friendship Skills

Make a cardboard tree that is on the wall or plant a dead tree or large branch in a pot for decorating.

In art, have children identify someone as their friend. The teacher writes the friend’s name and the child’s name on the leaf. The teacher should ask the child what they like about that friend, what they do together or what do they both like. Then the child can decorate the leaf with a picture of the activity or object and tape the leaf to a branch of the friendship tree.

Friendship Collage - Teamwork

In art, offer children magazines and catalogs. Tell them to work with a friend and cut out all the pictures of things they both like (to do, play, eat, animals, etc.). Ask them to paste their pictures on a paper. Display everyone’s friendship pictures.

Appreciation Circle – Giving Compliments

Explain to the children what a compliment is and how compliments let our friends know what we like about them. Then demonstrate giving a compliment to one of your puppets. Ask the children if they can think of more compliments for the puppet. After a few, prompt the puppet to say “thank you” and explain to children that we say thank you when someone offers a compliment. After the demonstration, you can have children come to the middle of the circle to receive compliments (maybe 2 or 3, you want the activity to move quickly). You may want to do this each day and only have 1 or 2 children be the center of the appreciation circle.

Songs to Sing About Friendships

(By Jack Hartmann, www.jackhartmann.com)

- Getting Better at Getting Along
- Hello Song
- This is the Way (we shake someone’s hand)
- If Friends Were Flowers
- Three Kind Mice

(By Becky Bailey, www.beckybailey.com)

- It Starts in the Heart (Becky Bailey & Jack Hartmann)