

Making Friends

I will learn about having a friend and being a friend through my relationship with you. Being a friend means sharing the same interests as someone else. More than that, being a friend means being willing to give up some of my ideas and think about the feelings and ideas of others. This is hard work when you are little. I won't be able to begin to do this until I am about five and it will take a really long time before I am good at it.

- **I can learn about being a friend when you are kind and considerate of me.** When you are able to use kind words with me and consider my feelings and needs, this helps me learn to use kind words with others and consider their feelings and needs.
- **I can learn about being a friend when you are kind and helpful to others.** Remember that I am watching you. I see how you treat other people and learn to treat others the same way you do. Help me learn that I'll feel best by learning how to be kind and helpful to others.
- **I can learn about being a friend when you help me learn from your experiences, especially if I see them.** Talk with me about why you were helpful to someone and how good that feels to you. If you are rude to someone or get angry, show me how to apologize or talk about the problem. I need to learn to solve problems by keeping control of my anger and talking so I can stay out of trouble in school.
- **I can learn about being a friend when you help me learn about being generous.** You can teach me about sharing by sharing with me. You can teach me about being giving with others by showing me how you are giving with others. I need to learn about sharing to do well in school because there are a lot of children there.



- **I can learn about being a friend when you help me learn that all people have rights.** When I watch you show respect toward other people, even if they are different from us or our family, I will learn acceptance. I will learn that people can be different from me and our family but still be a friend. I will learn about standing up for things I believe in. I will learn compassion for others. If I am lucky, I will meet all kinds of people in school. Being comfortable with all kinds of people will make people interested in what I have to offer them. This will help me in school and in work, when I get older.
- **I learn about being a friend when you help me learn that not everyone will be a friend.** Sometimes it's because people have different interests than I do and that is OK. Help me learn to just say "No, thank you!". It is ok to be interested in things that other people may not. Sometimes it is because someone hasn't learned to be kind and respectful toward others. Help me learn that it is ok to walk away from people who are unkind or disrespectful. Being disrespectful back to them does not make me look stronger. It makes me look like I have lost control of myself. I will meet a lot of people as I grow and need to feel comfortable with who I am. This will help me say "no" to things I am not interested in or that might hurt me.

Help me learn the joys of being a friend so I can have the joy of having a friend!