Friendship

Making friends seems to come easily to many children. They talk to children that they don’t know, and join into play side-by-side. However, it is not so easy for some children to learn how to share and take turns. These are skills that children need to develop to be successful in a classroom setting.

There are many books that talk about friendship that you can read with your child. You can ask your child how the characters in the book are feeling at different points in the story. They can look at the pictures to see what the faces look like, or listen to the words that are being read. If there are problems between the characters in the book, ask your child what he or she would do differently to fix the problem.

Playing board games is another way to build friendship skills. Children learn how to wait for their turn, how to follow rules, and how to be a good sport — whether they win or lose. It also exposes them to different types of print on the game board or playing cards.

The most important friendships are those they have in their families. Help your child develop good friendship skills with their brothers and sisters or cousins. The more opportunities that children have to practice their friendship skills, the more success they will have in the classroom setting.

Featured Book

My Friend Rabbit,
by Eric Rohmann

Rabbit means well, but whatever he does and wherever he goes, trouble seems to follow. The detailed illustrations in this story will spark good conversations about friendship, patience, and loyalty. Your child will want to read this award-winning book over and over again with you!

More books about friendship…

- A Splendid Friend Indeed, by Suzanne Bloom
- Margaret y Margarita, by Lynn Reiser
- Stellaluna, by Janell Cannon
- Should I Share My Ice Cream? by Mo Willems
- It’s Okay to be Different, by Todd Parr
- How Do Dinosaurs Play with their Friends? by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- The Name Jar, by Yangsook Choi
- Wemberly Worried, by Kevin Henkes
- One, by Kathryn Otoshi
More Fun with *My Friend Rabbit*…

Talk about it… *My Friend Rabbit* received the Caldecott Medal in 2003. Many of the pages contain detailed illustrations and no words. Help your child tell the story by asking questions such as, “What is Rabbit doing here?” “What do you think Mouse is thinking?” “What is Rabbit’s idea?” “What do you think will happen next?”

**Arts and crafts…** Using real photos or pictures your child has drawn, you and your child can create a Friendship Book. As you fill in the pages, ask your child what they like best about their friend and write their words on the pictures or below the photos. Ask lots of questions that cannot be answered with “yes” or “no.”

**In the kitchen…** Help your child stir peanut butter and jelly together for a sandwich. Talk about how the peanut butter is good all by itself and so is jelly, but together they make a great treat. Compare this to playing alone and playing with a friend.

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Fingerplay

**Friends**

I have two friends,
(hold up two fingers on left hand)
And they have me;
(hold up one finger on right hand)
Two friends and me,
(bend each from left to right)
That’s one, two, three!
(hold up while saying 1, 2, 3)

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**What your library can do for you…**

The library is a good place for you and your child to make friends as you attend weekly storytime activities.