

Making Friends

Every parent wants their child to have friends. If this is an area that your child needs help in there are things that you can do to help.

*Give your child many chances for socialization early on in life. Even if you are home with your child, give them experiences with day care and preschool so that they learn to be away from you for short periods of time, but most importantly, they can also learn how to interact with their peers. This type of interaction will help so that the start of school is not so traumatic for your child.

*Once your child is school age encourage them to join in things like Boy /Girl Scouts, 4-H, Rec. Sports, and any other clubs, and extra curricular activities. These types of activities are not only a great time for socialization, they are educational and teach great life skills, but they are fun too!

*Schedule play dates with other kids from your neighborhood, or from school.

*Work on your child's social skills. Use teachable moments to point out and practice how to interact appropriately with others. Ex. How to share, take turns, say they are sorry, listen to others ideas, don't be bossy, play fair, use their words instead of being aggressive, etc.

*Teach your child, The Golden Rule-Treat others as you wish to be treated.

Books for kids:

We Can Get Along, A Child's Book of Choices
By Lauren Murphy Payne, MSW

How to be a Friend
By Laurie Krasny Brown and March Brown

Franklin is Bossy
By Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark

Join in and Play
By Cheri Meiners M. Ed

Share and Take Turns
By Cheri Meiners M. Ed

Me First
By Helen Lester

