



WHAT IS IT?

Supporting Friendship Skills are strategies to help facilitate students' ability to make and maintain friendships. It includes the teaching of social skills through the use of books, puppets, and other materials.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

During Circle Time, the teacher reads a book that illustrates students successfully sharing. She provides each student a laminated picture of an item shared in the book. When their corresponding page is read, students role-play sharing the items with a peer (i.e., hand picture to friend).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Students learn friendship skills through repeated practice and observation of their peers. Intentional teaching of social skills helps students understand what is expected of them in social interactions, while providing a safe place for them to practice these new skills (see *You've Got to Have Friends* handout).

Among many others, some important social skills for kindergartners include sharing, turn-taking, initiating conversation, perspective-taking, showing patience, being flexible, and listening to others.

How to Support Friendship Skills

- ☒ **Use books and social stories** that focus on social skills.
See *Introduction to Super Friend* in Resources.
- ☒ **Model friendship skills** with puppets or videos using different social scenarios.
- ☒ **Prime students** to consider and use friendship skills before play begins.
"Who are you going to play with? What toy will you share?"
- ☒ **Suggest play ideas.**
Offer new ways to use materials or expand the play to include others or role-reversals.
- ☒ **Directly model friendship skills.**
Join in the play! Directly model desired play partner behaviors.
- ☒ **Use positive reinforcement.**
Provide specific, labeled praise shortly after play has ended. Make sure not to interrupt play to provide reinforcement, as this may disrupt play interactions.

RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT FRIENDSHIP SKILLS

The Rainbow Fish

[Available as PDF](#)

CSEFEL© (Book Nook)

I Can Be a Super Friend

[Available as PDF](#)

CSEFEL©

Super Friend Activity

[Available as PDF](#)

CASTL©

You've Got to Have Friends

[Available as PDF](#)

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