

FRIEND PICTURES

This activity is a good icebreaker for the first day of school. It can be used through the year.

Materials/Preparation:

- Digital Camera
- Laminator & plastic laminator sheets

Activity:

1. Take a picture of each child and make two copies of each picture.
2. Laminate each picture.
3. Have students work in groups of three, and alternate each group. The other students can work in other centers during this time.
4. Have students play a game of concentration with pictures.
5. Have students sort pictures by boys and girls, color of hair, color of eyes, etc.

Additional Comments:

Sorting and matching are pre-math skills.

This activity was modified from the Getting To Know You website.
<http://www.mrsballingall.homestead.com/gettingknowyou~ns4.html>



FRIENDSHIP

This activity would be a good way to begin the new school year. The purpose of this activity is to teach social skills and how to develop friendships.

Materials:

- Eric Carle's book: *Do You Want to Be My Friend?*
- Large piece of butcher block paper
- Paints (yellow, orange, blue, green, purple, pink)

Activity:

1. Read the story during circle time.
2. Discuss the meaning of being a friend and what good qualities are in a friend.
3. Discuss the mouse's search for the perfect friend.
4. What good qualities were in each friend he found?
5. Make a friendship rainbow to hang over the entranceway to your door.
6. Use the kids' handprints in each color.
7. Talk about what friends the children have made since they have been in school.
8. What is a good quality about that friend? Why do they like that friend and what activities do they do together?
9. After the rainbow dries, hang it over your door with the saying- *A Rainbow of Friendship hand in Hand.*



GETTING TO KNOW YOU BOX

Friendship activities can help young children begin to understand the uniqueness of one another, and build individual self-esteem while creating a classroom community of mutual respect and admiration. When children feel valued as individuals, they can go outside themselves and find joy in discovering the similarities and differences among other children in their class—the beginning of friendship. You can help children in your class to learn to value themselves and others by creating the “Getting To Know You Box”. This activity can be completed over a period of two weeks.

Materials/Preparation:

- One shoe box per child (with lid)
- Box of crayons per child
- Glue
- Stickers
- Markers
- Craft sticks
- Scissors
- Photograph of each child
- Photograph of each child doing a favorite activity
- Construction paper
- Magazines

Activity:

1. Give each child a box with his or her name on it. Include a photo of the child on the box for those children that cannot read.
2. Explain to the children that being a friend means getting to know each other first. Explain how each child has a special box they can fill with all neat stuff to help other children in the class learn more about them.
3. Have children draw a picture of their favorite thing to do at school.
4. Have children cut a picture of their favorite food out of a magazine.
5. Have children find or make an object in their favorite color.
6. Have children make family puppets with craft sticks and construction paper to represent different people in their family.
7. After children have filled their boxes, have a sharing circle in which each child discusses the contents of his/her individual box.
8. Invite the children to talk about the similarities and differences you find from child to child.

Additional Comments:

Ask families to provide you with children’s baby pictures to show how they’ve grown and changed. These boxes can remain in the classroom, and can be utilized to extend different areas of development. Children can add other favorite objects to their boxes.



Fine and Gross Motor Activities that Promote Friendship



FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

Materials/Preparation:

- Fruit Loop type cereal
- String or yarn

Activity:

1. Give each child a piece of string and some fruit loops.
2. Have the children string the fruit loops onto the string to make a bracelet.
3. Then have the children trade with a friend.
4. Explain that you make the bracelets because you care for your friends.

Additional Comments:

Each color can be coded to promote a different quality of friendship (i.e. blue=kindness).





PAPER DOLLS

Discuss with the students the meaning of friendship and how they will make many friends this school year.

Materials/Preparation:

- White construction paper folded and cut out to make a pair of paper dolls
- Crayons
- Tape

Activity:

1. Discuss with the students what a friend is and what it takes to be a good friend.
2. Tell the students that we will be making friendship paper dolls.
3. Have the students chose a partner.
4. Give each pair a set of paper dolls and instruct each student to draw their partner (being careful not to break the doll pairs apart).
5. Once the students are done, have them write their partner's name on the doll and hang them on the bulletin board.
6. This may be done twice having the children choose a different partner. If there is an odd number of students, tape a third doll to a pair and have a group of three.

Additional Comments:

This is also a great fine motor activity.



BALLOON VOLLEYBALL

A variety of games can be implemented with the use of balloons. When children are placed into paired teams an opportunity for friendship building and cooperative behaviors can be developed.

Materials/Preparation:

- Balloons
- Net

Activity:

1. A pair of children are located on either side of the volleyball net.
2. One child is the server and hits the balloon over the net to the other team.
3. The object of the game is to work as a team to keep the balloon off the floor when it is on your teams side of the net.
4. Friendship behaviors are to be emphasized during play. The children should be encouraged to identify friendly behaviors in their peers.

Additional Comments:

Balloons can be utilized in a variety of games involving two or more children. The teachers and children's imagination are the only limiting factors when implementing balloon games into friendship building activities.



NATURE WALK

This activity involves pairs of students working together to complete a final project. As a large group, students will walk around the schoolyard to obtain “nature” materials. The paired groupings will each complete a picture of items they located on their nature walk. Working in the paired groups enhances communication and friendship skills.

Materials/Preparation:

- Paper
- Glue
- Markers

Activity:

1. The teacher will discuss what happens when the weather begins to change (e.g., winter to spring).
2. The teacher will direct the class to pair up with a friend for an observation walk around the schoolyard.
3. Students will pick items found during their walk. Some may return with leaves, sand, rocks, etc.
4. Each paired group will create a project with their findings.
5. The teacher will ask open-ended questions about the nature walk and the group process of completing the final project. The teacher will note identification of friendship behaviors.
6. Students will describe using language.

Additional Comments:

This activity can be utilized at any time of the school year. Changes in seasons would be ideal time frames to implement the activity for additional discussion in the classroom.





FRIENDSHIP BEANBAG TOSS

Explain to the children that we are going to learn a friendship song and play a game with the beanbag while singing the song.

Materials/Preparation:

- Beanbag

Activity:

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Using a beanbag, toss it from hand to hand while singing this tune; I have a good friend a good friend a good friend, I have a good friend and their name is _____.
3. Have the children practice the song.
4. Then toss the beanbag to the child whose name you call. Have the child toss it back to you. Do this until every child has had their name called.
5. Then toss the beanbag to one of the children and have them sing the song and toss it to a friend. Continue allowing all children to name a friend.

Additional Comments:

This game is also good for language skills and hand and eye coordination



SHADOW PARTNERS

This is an activity that students can do in pairs. It is not only fun, it will help develop social skills, and eye/hand coordination.

Materials/Preparation:

N/A

Activity:

1. Have students choose a friend to be a partner. The teacher can facilitate this by assigning partners if necessary.
2. Students face each other, then place their hands palm to palm and pretend they are in front of a large mirror.
3. One student makes a face or gesture, or a movement, and the other student mimics what he/she sees.
4. Students should take turns being the leader for the other student to mimic.

