

Learning Objective: To teach children the basics of building and enhancing relationships with peers

Skill: Making friends

Ask the group, "What would you do if there were someone you'd like to be friends with?" Brainstorm ideas and write them on the blackboard or a large sheet of paper.

Tell them:

Most people want to be friends with others, but meeting new people isn't always easy. It takes time to get to know another person.

The first step is starting a conversation. Try to think of something the other person might be interested in—something the two of you might both have experienced, such as, "Did you watch the baseball game last night?" or "Can you believe how much math homework we got?" Once you begin a conversation, the other person will usually join in, and you'll be on your way to forming a friendship. When you feel comfortable with the other person, you can usually plan to do something together.

Call on volunteers to talk about their friendships—old or new—and how they developed. Ask them to try to remember everything they did to build these friendships.

Then, pair children who don't know each other well. Tell them to talk with each other to find out what they have in common—what they each like to do and why, their families, their pets, their favorite subjects in school, and so on. Each pair can then share what they have learned about each other with the group.