



Lesson 7: Being A Good Friend

Primary Goals:

1. Understand what it means to be a friend and why we have friends.
2. Discuss activities we can do with our friends and how we can be good friends to each other.
3. Capitalize on in-vivo opportunities to encourage and reinforce prosocial behaviors (e.g., sharing, taking turns) in students.

Materials for Main Lesson:

- Book: How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? by Jane Yolen

Materials for Supplemental Activities:

- Ball of yarn
- "I Can Be A Pal" worksheet
- Book: How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? by Jane Yolen



Lesson 7, part 1: Being a Good Friend Introduction (10 minutes)

Teacher: "Today we are talking about being a good friend."

Facilitate an introductory conversation about friends by asking:

"Who can tell me what a friend is?"

Allow students a chance to respond and facilitate conversation around 2 to 3 student answers.

"A friend is a person you like and enjoy being with."

Teacher: "What do friends do with other friends?"

Allow students a chance to respond and write down a list of responses that students generate.

Some things to focus on are: help each other, say kind words, share, play, etc.

Praise class for generating responses.

Teacher: "So good friends use kind words, gentle hands and feet, look with their eyes, listen with their ears, and shares toys."

Teacher: "Sometimes, I want to play with what my friends are playing with. When I play, I sometimes feel like taking toys, using mean words, or hitting and kicking. How would my friends feel if I took their toys, used mean words, or hit or kicked them?"

Allow students a chance to respond and facilitate conversation around 2 to 3 student answers.

Teacher: "If you want to join in play with friends. What should you do?"

Allow students a chance to respond and facilitate conversation around 2 to 3 student answers.

Some things to focus on are: join nicely, ask to play with the friends/toys, etc.



Lesson 7, part 2: Book Reading (10 minutes)

Read aloud:

How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? by Jane Yolen

- Before Reading:
 - Ask the students what they think the book will be about and why they think that.
- During Reading:
 - Ask the students:
 - If a good friend would do some of the things that the dinosaurs do? For example, "Does a good friend pout if he/she can't get his/her way?"
 - To describe how they would feel if someone:
 - Hid all of their toys and didn't share.
 - Threw their toys in air.
 - Hogged all of the toys on the playground.
- After Reading:
 - Discuss prosocial behaviors (sharing and taking turns) and how those behaviors help us be good friends to each other.

Supplemental Activities (OPTIONAL)



Activity: Group Cooperation Spider Web

- Ask the students if they think people can spin webs like spiders. This question usually stirs up the curiosity, and next comes the rules of the game.

ACTIVITY:

- Introduce the activity with the above question and suggest that we should try to spin a web as a group.
- Have students sit down in a big circle and show them the ball of yarn.
- Explain that you will begin spinning the web by holding the end of the yarn ball tightly in your lap and then picking a friend to toss the remaining ball to. For example, "I pick ___ to help spin our web."
- When ___ catches it, share something you like about him/her (i.e., "I like how ___ shares with his friends").
- Remind student to hold the yarn string tight in his/her lap, as he/she picks the next friend to toss the ball of yarn to.
- The activity proceeds until the ball is complete, and the number of times a child is picked doesn't matter, unless of course the circle has not gone through everyone. If a student has not had a chance to throw the yarn, facilitate the student's participation by saying "I think ___ would like to join our web".



Art: "How Can I Be A Pal?" worksheet

- Give each child an "I Can Be A Pal" worksheet.
 - Allow students to draw a picture of themselves being good pals.
 - Remind students of what a good friend does (i.e., uses kind words, gentle hands and feet, looks with their eyes, listens with their ears, and shares toys).



Music and Movement: Friend of Mine Song

- The children stand in a circle. Start the activity by singing the song and then pointing to a child to join you. The song is sung to the tune of *Mary Had A Little Lamb*.

Friend of Mine Song:

Will you be a friend of mine,

Friend of mine, Friend of mine?

Will you be a friend of mine,

And _____ around with me? (Fill in the blank with a movement such as hop, dance, wiggle)

- The two children in the middle now sing it together and invite a third friend to join. Continue until all the children are in the middle dancing or moving together!



Book Re-Reading

- Reintroduce the book *How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?* by Jane Yolen
 - Ask the students what they remember about the book (do the dinosaurs share with their friends, etc.)
 - During the re-read:
 - Ask the students:
 - How a good friend would play with his/her friends?
 - If the dinosaurs are being good friends? How do they know?

Materials Appendix:

Draw Pictures showing how you can be a Pal

Name: _____

In class

At playtime

At lunchtime

I can be a pal

