

# Friendship

**Syllables**  
friend•ship

**Pronunciation**  
frend-ship

## Definition

The bond between two or more people who like each other.  
(Tillie and Ernie had known each other since kindergarten and enjoyed their **friendship**.)

**Simply put:** buddies doing buddy things

## Related Terms

Companion: Pal.

## Fundamental Question:

What makes a good friend a good friend?

**Students will investigate the idea that** friends care about each other and behave accordingly (by listening to each other, helping each other solve problems, showing respect for each other, and so forth).

## Objectives

Each student will:

1. Examine the dynamics of friendships.
2. Explore what they can do in their own lives to make (and discourage) friends.

## Before you begin

- Request permission from your school administrator and weigh faculty interest in involving their classes in this lesson.
- Enlist the help of the school counselor, media specialist, art teacher, and others.

## Suggested Sidebars:

### Speaking of Friendship (Discussion Idea)

What are some of the things we must do to care properly for a growing plant (pet, younger child)? What are some things we must do to care for a growing friendship?

### Taking It to the Next Level

For more than 50 years, Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) has promoted peace, education, and cross-cultural friendships for and through children ages 11 and up worldwide. Find out more about this truly unique exchange program at <http://www.cisv.org>.

# Friendship

## Procedure

1. Explain to your students that your class will be organizing a Friendship Fair for the school. Ask: “Why is it important to have friends? How can we help others make new friends?” (Discuss.)
2. Divide the students into groups of three or four. Assign each group a different topic from the following list (or make up some friendship-related topics of your own). Each of the topics will be the general theme for a booth at the fair.
  - Who is a friend? (A friend is someone you trust; Someone who is loyal, supportive, flexible, and understanding. A friend is someone with whom you are comfortable. (S)he’s a person you like, and who likes you back. A friend is all of that and more!)
  - Who is not a friend? (Some relationships are harmful. These include “friends” who use, betray, manipulate, control, judge, break promises to, or gossip about you. How can you avoid these relationships?)
  - Why do I want a friend? (There are as many reasons as there are friends. Take time to explore the possibilities.)
  - Where do I find a friend? (You can find potential friends at club meetings or classes, houses of worship, through other friends, at parties, at playgrounds, and lots of places!)
  - How do I make a friend? (Start by smiling, talking, sharing information about yourself, and being attentive [truly listening] to others. Send an e-mail. Invite the person over to play. Friendships take time to develop.)
  - Potpourri (How are best friends different than regular friends? How are regular friends different than acquaintances? How do I avoid neglecting my friends when I am busy? What if I feel jealous of my friend? Is a pen pal a real friend? How do you make friends from other cultures?...)
  - Misc. committees/chairs, as needed (site, publicity and publications, supplies, research...)
3. Divide the class into four groups. Place the index cards face down on a table. Have a representative from each group select one index card.
4. Share basic details about the fair with your students. (For example: “Our class has reserved the gym from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on November 15th. That’s three weeks from now. As part of our lesson/unit about friendship, we will plan and host a Friendship Fair for the rest of the school. Our job will be to teach the other kids – and even the other teachers – about friendship. Not just to show them what we have learned, but really to help them make and keep new friends.”)
5. Meet with each student group to decide upon how its booth will be organized, if it will be a game booth or strictly an information booth, what supplies it will need, which adults it would like to include as resource people, what it hopes to get across and how it hopes to accomplish that.
6. **Follow Up:** The fair, of course!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Reminder:** Friendship is the bond between two or more people who like each other.

## Announcing!

Have you ever seen a birth announcement? It's usually a card that tells about a new baby. It might include the baby's name, length (that's height for someone like a baby who's lying down), weight, parents' names, and other information. Birth announcements sometimes include photos of the new baby, too.

Make a list of some of the characteristics you'd like to have in a friend. Then, design an announcement telling everyone what's so special about this person. (Your friend might be someone you really know or just someone you'd like to know.)

I would like to have a friend who:

example: is funny and likes to share secrets with me

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

is pleased to announce a friend!

Friend's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend's grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend's hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Personality: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_

The very best thing about my friend is: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Thought: *Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends.* — **Czech Proverb**