



Playing with Friends

Requirements

1. What is a friend?
2. Name three ways you can make friends.
3. Name four things you can talk about to be friendly with someone.
4. Name four things you need to think about when choosing a friend.
5. Name three ways that you can know a person is a right friend for you.
6. Did Jesus have friends? Have an adult help you find a story in the Bible about some of His friends.
7. Make a craft to give to your friend.
8. Do your choice of one of the following:
 - a. Learn a song about friends.
 - b. Make a scrapbook about a new friend.
 - c. Write a story about a friend.
 - d. Write a poem about a friend.
 - e. Tell a story about a friend

Updated in: Unknown / Grade Unknown

Supporting Answers

Much of the first several requirements of this award can be done as a discussion BUT they are more interesting if you create role play situations OR find some short video clips of children making a new friend or being a good friend.

Teaching Idea: What is a friend?

Materials: No materials needed.

Procedure:

1. Explain to the Early Birds that you are talking about PLAYING WITH FRIENDS. Invite the parents to be part of this conversation with their child.
2. Ask them for a definition of what a friend is. Something like “someone who you like and enjoy being around”, “someone who likes doing something that I like to do”, etc.

Teaching Idea: Name three ways you can make friends.

Materials: No materials needed.

Procedure:

1. Ask, “what are some ways to make a friend?” Allow the children to answer. If needed ask parents to help their child think of ways, they have made a new friend in the past.

Some ideas might include:

- a. Saying “hello” to someone at school or church.
 - b. Having a friend introduce you to someone new.
 - c. Playing together at the playground several times and becoming friends by playing.
 - d. Being part of the same swim or gymnastics or other class.
 - e. Having parents who become friends.
2. Ask the children, “What did you do or say that helped someone become your friend?”
 - a. Say “hi”.

- b. Smile.
- c. Share a toy or space on the playground.

Teaching Idea: Name four things you can talk about to be friendly with someone.

Materials: No materials needed.

Procedure:

1. Ask, "what are some things you can talk about to be friendly to someone?"
 - a. A game that you are playing together.
 - b. Colors you like or other things you like which might be the same.
 - c. What you can play together.
 - d. Invite the other person to share some toy with you.

Teaching Idea: Name four things you need to think about when choosing a friend.

Materials: There are a number of short videos for this are which might be useful.

Procedure:

1. Some questions to ask when choosing a friend:
 - a. Does this person like similar things?
 - b. Does this person help me feel better about who I am?
 - c. Does this person act in ways that are kind, loving, and helpful?
 - d. Does this person show respect to adults? (their parents, teachers, other adults)
 - e. Do my parents like this person?
2. Remember that you didn't get to pick your family. You don't get to pick your teachers or classmates. BUT you do get to pick the people you want to be your friends. So, be careful that you make choices that will make God happy and you happy.

Teaching Idea: Name three ways that you can know a person is a right friend for you.

Materials: No materials.

1. Here are some ways to know someone is a good friend for you.
 - a. A good friend never makes fun of you instead they encourage you and build you up.
 - b. A good friend is not bossy instead good friends take turns deciding what you will do. You are equals.
 - c. A good friend helps you be the best you that you can be.
 - d. A good friend likes to do similar things to what you enjoy.
 - e. A good friend believes that God and the Bible are important so that we know how we will be happy and safe.

Teaching Idea: Did Jesus have friends? Have an adult help you find a story in the Bible about some of His friends.

Materials: Simple to understand Bible for each child (CEB, NIV, etc), a parent to do the activity with each child

Procedure:

1. Who were some of Jesus' friends? See if you can find the story in the Bible.

NOTE: These will all be in the gospels. Here are some ideas:

- a. Luke 10:38-42 - Mary & Martha
 - b. Matthew 4:18-22 - Jesus invites Peter, Andrew, James & John
 - c. John 21:1-14 - Jesus appears to his friends after his resurrection
2. Instruct the Early Birds to work with their parent to find and read a Bible story about Jesus having a friend or friends.
 3. After everyone has listened to their story, ask one child at a time to report, "who was Jesus' friend in the story you heard?"

Teaching Idea: Make a craft to give to your friend.

Materials: table covering (this is a messy craft), cleaning wipes or paper towels, full sized piece of drawing paper for each child, 9" paper plates (one per child), washable finger paints in several colors, small paper strips with the words "Thank you for being my friend" on them.

Procedure:

1. Pass out the drawing paper. Have each child select two finger paint colors. Put some of each color on their paper plate.

2. Instruct the children to carefully place their hand in the paint and put handprints of both colors all over their paper.
3. Once the handprints are on the paper, take time to clean everyone's hands and then work on another requirement while the paint dries.
4. Once the paint is dry, have each child glue the "Thank you" note on their paper and print their friend's name at the top of the design (they might need help writing the friend's name).
5. At the end of the meeting time, ask the Early Birds to give their craft to their friend to thank them for being a friend.

Teaching Idea: Do your choice of one of the following:

Learn a song about friends.

Make a scrapbook about a new friend.

Learn or experience a poem about a friend.

Tell a story about a friend

Materials: Materials vary based on the project selected.

Procedure:

1. Select two projects. Ask the Early Birds to select which project they want to do about a friend.
2. Once the group has divided into project groups, have them complete their project with the other friends who have selected that project type as well. Parents should help!