

Ideas for Staff Development



Friendship Skill Identification Activity

- Think about a child you work with who is a “good friend.”
- What makes this person a good friend?
- Jot down inner traits/characteristics on the inside of a “person.”
- Jot down skills the friend exhibits on the outside.
- Which part was easier to jot down? Why?
- What are the skills we need to teach?



How do we teach skills? Activity

- Brainstorm how we teach an academic skill, like supporting a child to recognize the first letter in their name.
- How do these teaching strategies relate to teaching social skills?

Group Affection Activities

- Select a song or game you use with children that doesn't include a friendship component.
- How can you modify the song or game to be a group affection activity?
- Try an activity with your staff or team.

Reframing Activity

- Have everyone bring a book or song that has moments that aren't “friendly.” (E.g., Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Bunny Foo Foo)
- Work to reframe these stories, pairing them with a friendship skill.
- Brainstorm how you could use them to teach children.

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Purposeful Planning Activity

- Materials: pink, blue, and yellow highlighters; a weekly lesson plan
- Highlight activities where children work together in blue (opportunities for incidental teaching)
- Highlight activities where the social skill is explicitly taught in pink (intentional, explicit teaching where the objectives are teaching and reinforcing this skill)
- Review the activities highlighted in blue. If children could choose to play alone or work alone during these activities, highlight them again with yellow so they turn green.
- For green items (opportunities to play together or alone), how can I encourage children to play together? How can I increase engagement so children will choose to play together? How can I offer activities that require teamwork?
- For blue items (incidental teaching moments), how can I reinforce these skills? What am I going to purposefully notice and comment on? How can I encourage children to reflect?
- Do you have pink items? Review with DAPPER to determine next steps and ideas.

What do you mean? Activity

What we say...	What we mean...
"You can't come to my birthday party."	
"That's not nice."	
"I'm not your friend."	
"Use your words."	
"We're all friends."	
"I can't be your friend; you're X..."	