

I Have Friends



SPHE STRANDS:

Myself and Others – My friends and other people – Relating to others

Chatting

Show the children these or similar images representing friendship.



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Ask these or similar questions:

- Look at the three pictures of friends and pick your favourite? What do you see in the picture and what do you like about it?
- Do you think all of the children in the pictures look happy? How do you know?
- Do you notice that in all of the pictures the children have their arms around each other? Why are they doing that? Do you ever put your arm around your friend?

Then ask deeper questions such as:

- Do the children and their friends in the pictures look the same? In what way are they the same and in what way are they different?
- Think of the friends you have at school and at home – are they all the same size? Is there anyone who has a different skin colour? Do they all have the same number of people in their family?
- How did you pick your friends? What do you like about them?
- Do you ever argue with your friends? Friends don't always agree. Why do people still stay friends even when they disagree or argue?

Art Activity

Invite the children to draw a group of their friends together.

Allow some time for the children to explain what they have drawn to the child beside them and to the whole class if time allows.

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Game: A Good Friend

Invite the children to sit in a circle and think of how they can be a good friend. Teacher sits in the circle and starts by suggesting something such as sharing your toys, playing together, etc. One by one the children must suggest another way to be a good friend. They cannot repeat one someone else has said. It is a good idea to pause for discussion if any interesting suggestions come up.

Reflection

Invite the children to sit really still with their feet on the ground. Ask them to close their eyes and then read the following:

Can you remember if Jesus had any friends? Can you remember any of their names? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Peter, James, John, etc.) Jesus chose twelve special friends to help him to tell people about God. They were from lots of different places and different families.

Jesus asked us to love one another. When you are kind to your friends you are doing what Jesus asked you to do. Think of ways you can be kind to your friends.

Let's say a little prayer for our friends:

Thank you, God, for all my friends

We run and jump and play.

Help me to be kind to them

Every single day.

Amen.