



Visual Support Guide: Friendship Kit

What?

A “friendship kit” is a container that holds visuals and objects children can use to provide support to another child when needed. These visual supports include a label for the friendship kit, conversation starters, and examples of what a child can do to comfort a friend.

Why?

- Making and keeping friends is an important social-emotional skill for young children. A friendship kit helps children learn to notice when others are in distress and how to respond in a caring and helpful way.
- You can use the friendship kit in different ways.
 - Teach children important positive social skills such as helping and comforting.
 - Support a child who needs extra help to use positive and safe friendship skills with other children.

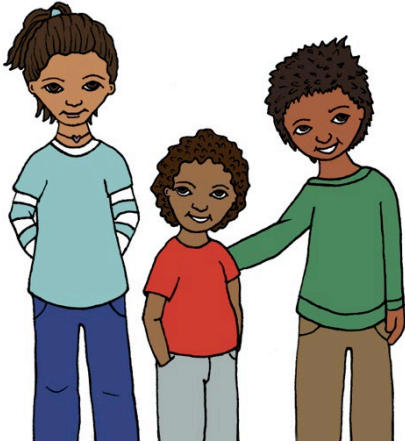
How?

- Make a friendship kit.
 - Print out the friendship kit label and the friendship picture symbols.
 - Laminate and cut into individual cards.
 - Gather comfort items and place them with the cards in a container that children can access easily. Translate the actions into the languages spoken by the children in your learning environment or make separate cards in each language.
- Use the friendship kit.
 - Show the kit to children during large or small group time. Explain that when they notice another child is feeling sad or upset, they can use the kit to find ideas to comfort their friend.
 - Provide specific examples of when children might use the kit.
 - Give an example, such as when a child is sad because he didn’t want his mom to leave, when a child scrapes her knee on the playground, or when a child doesn’t have anyone to play with.
 - Invite children to share examples of when they might need comfort from a friend.
 - Explain how to use each item in the kit.
 - You can say, “You can ask your friend how they are feeling,” “You can ask your friend if they want a hug,” “If your friend is sad, you can give the teddy bear to your friend to cuddle,” or “You can use the crayons and these cards to write a kind note to your friend.”
 - Encourage children to go to the friendship kit anytime they want to comfort a friend.

- Let children know they can ask an adult for help in using the kit if they need additional support.
- There is a variety of items commonly used to comfort or support a friend that you can add to the friendship kit.
 - A small package of tissues to give to a friend to wipe away tears
 - A small stuffed animal to give to a friend to cuddle
 - A box of Band-Aids to give to a friend with an owie
 - A couple of sheets of stickers to put on the shirt of a friend who needs some cheer
 - A pair of silly glasses with moustaches, a funny finger puppet, or other funny prop to give a sad friend a smile
 - A set of sticky notes and a pencil or crayons to write a friend in need a happy note for their cubby, table place, or backpack
 - Blank, cheerful greeting cards to write and deliver to a friend

Friendship Kit

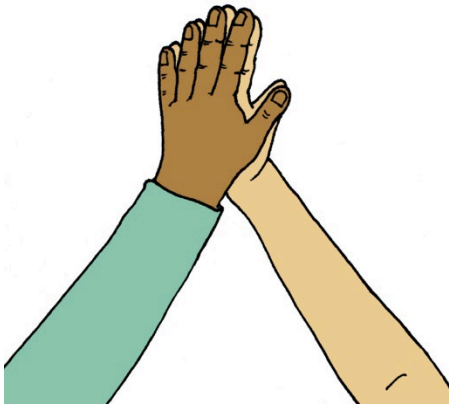
Friendship Kit



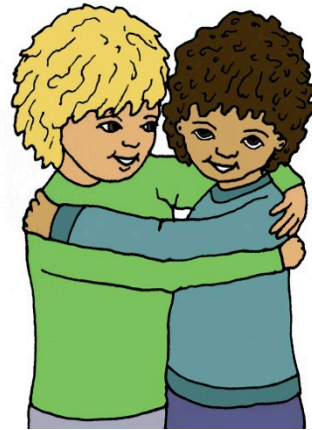
Are you OK?



Do you want a high five?

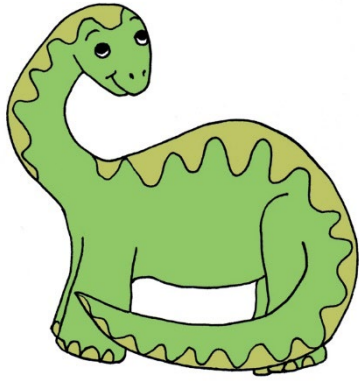


Do you want a hug?



Friendship Kit

Feel Better Soon!



Feel Better Soon!

