

Social Skills Lesson Plan: “Let’s Be Friends!” (All Ages)

Classroom:

Teacher:

Learning Objective(s)

- Children will practice positive social behaviors, such as sharing, turn-taking, and helping.
 - Children will strengthen empathy and emotional awareness through group play and reflection.
 - Children will build early friendship and communication skills in a safe, supportive environment.
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Materials

- Age-appropriate toys for group play (blocks, dolls, cars, sensory balls)
 - Picture cards showing positive social behaviors (sharing, helping, greeting, turn-taking)
 - Puppets or stuffed animals for role-play
 - Floor mat or circle time area
 - Optional: mirrors for practicing facial expressions, social storybooks about friendship
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Procedures

1. Set the Stage

- Gather children in a circle and introduce the idea:
 - “Today we’re going to practice being good friends! Friends share, take turns, and help each other.”
- Show a few picture cards of children sharing or helping, and ask:
 - “What do you see happening here?”
 - “How do you think their friend feels?”

2. Explain the Activity

- “We’ll play with toys and practice taking turns. We’ll also help our friends and use kind words.”
- Model with a puppet: one puppet asks for a toy, the other shares it.

3. Set Up the Space

- Spread out toys in a safe play area.
- Keep a puppet or stuffed animal nearby to demonstrate as needed.

4. Play the Game

- Invite children to choose a toy and begin playing.
- Prompt turn-taking and sharing by joining in:
 - “It’s my turn with the ball, now it’s your turn.”
 - “Can you give your friend the car and then get it back later?”
- Use puppets for quick role-play if conflicts arise: “Let’s see how the puppets can fix this problem!”

5. Wrap-Up

- Gather children in a circle and reflect:
 - “Who shared today? Who waited their turn?”
 - “How did it feel when your friend gave you a toy?”
 - Celebrate with claps, smiles, and positive words.
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Individualized Support

- For infants: Use parallel play and gentle narration (“You’re playing near your friend. You both have toys!”).
 - For toddlers: Offer simple language prompts (“Your turn,” “My turn”).
 - For preschoolers: Encourage problem-solving scripts (“What can you say if you want a turn?”).
 - For children needing extra support: Provide visual cues, one-on-one coaching, or partner with a socially confident peer.
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Modifications & Extensions

Infants & Toddlers

- Focus on parallel play with soft toys.
- Encourage smiles, clapping, or simple exchanges.
- Narrate social interactions (“You gave the rattle to your friend—so kind!”).

Preschool & Mixed-Age Groups

- Add role-playing scenarios like “inviting someone to play” or “saying sorry.”
Play group games that encourage cooperation (Duck, Duck, Goose; Simon Says).
- Use storytime with books about friendship, kindness, or emotions.

All Age Groups

- Use songs and chants with social themes (“Hello Song,” “We Are Friends”).
 - Extend outdoors—practice taking turns on slides or swings.
 - Celebrate kindness daily with a “Friendship Star” board where children’s kind acts are highlighted.
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👉 This lesson gives children the opportunity to **practice social skills in fun, supportive ways**, helping them develop empathy, cooperation, and early friendships.

Sample