

Activities to develop children's friendships

Explore ways to develop children's friendships at your nursery with these fun activity ideas.

Learning aims

- Personal, social and emotional development (PSED)
- Communication and language
- Understanding the world.

Friendship tree

Resources

Depending on the type of display you choose, resources could include:

- Paper
- Pens
- Sticky tape or glue
- Bricks
- Sellotape
- Scissors.



Activity outline

- Ask your children to think about what it takes to be a good friend - What kind of things can they do to be a good friend?
- Create a friendship tree by writing the children's ideas on leaf-shaped paper, or a friendship wall by writing words on the bricks
- You can add to the tree or wall over the week by asking your children to share experiences of how somebody has been a good friend that day
- Write these on a piece of paper
- Stick them on your chosen display
- At the end of the week, review the many acts of being a good friend.

Friendship bench

Resources

- A low bench or stools/chairs
- Materials to decorate them so they stand out e.g. paint, paper
- Materials to create your friendship area sign e.g. balloons tied to the chairs, a paper or card sign or painting on the wall.



Activity outline

- Create a friendship bench or put some decorated chairs together to create a friendship area
- Explain to your children that this area can be used by anyone that is looking for someone to play with
- When they see someone sitting on the bench/in the area, they should be a good friend and invite them to join their play
- Revisit the good friend suggestions - from your friendship tree activity - to remind your children how to be a good friend.

Photo booth

Resources

- A space that can be used just for the photos
- A chair/stool/bench/beanbags, a camera or iPad, photo printer
- A cut out card photo frame
- Props such as hats and glasses for your children to choose from, to make their photos fun.



Activity outline

- Create a photo booth area and give your children access to a camera/iPad
- Encourage them to take photos of themselves with their friends
- Print the photos off
- Display them next to your friendship tree/wall/bench or you can stick them onto card and create a friendship book to keep in your book area.

Working with babies

Resources

- Camera
- Laminator
- Hole punch
- Treasury tags.

Activity outline

- Take photographs of all the babies in your room
- Laminate them
- Punch some holes
- Use treasure tags to create your own friend book
- Look through the book together with the babies
- Talk about all the babies in your book and whether they are at the nursery today.