

Making Friends



Reader Notes:

These stories can help children become familiar with some things they may experience at an early learning centre or kindergarten. Every child, early learning centre, and kindergarten is different. Before reading, change the words, pictures and order so they match the child's early learning centre or kindergarten, routines, communication and support needs. The "add your own image" version can be used to include familiar photographs.

Read the story with the child. Invite them to notice what is the same or different, share how they feel and show what helps them feel safe, comfortable and included. Children may communicate through speech, gesture, movement, sign, symbols, a communication device or other ways.

Families and educators can use what the child shares to plan supports and reasonable adjustments. The aim is to support predictability, agency, belonging and participation while recognising that every child may engage with their early learning centre or kindergarten in different ways.



I can make friends in lots of ways. I can join in with other children in ways that feel right for me.





Sometimes I see one child or a group playing. I can watch first. When I am ready, I can join them.

I can show someone I want to play in my own way. I can talk, use signs, and pictures.





To join in, I can ask “Can I play?” or “What are you doing?” I can bring a toy or play an activity alongside them.

I can also invite someone to play with me. I can say “Do you want to play?” or “Can I sit with you?”

I can show them I want to play by holding up a toy or playing as they watch.





Sometimes I might need help to join in. A teacher can help me find someone to play with. They can help me find someone who likes some of the things I do. A teacher can also help me think of a way to join in.

Sometimes when I ask to play,
another child might say "no". It
might make me feel sad or
angry. They might want to play
by themselves. That's ok.





Instead, I can choose to play on my own, ask another child to play, or ask a teacher for help. When I find other children who want to play, we can talk, listen and move. We can each take turns choosing what we play.

When I am finished, I can let
them know in my own way.
Then I can go and do something
else.





Every time I play with others, I am learning how to watch, join in and take turns in my own way. I can make friends in lots of ways.