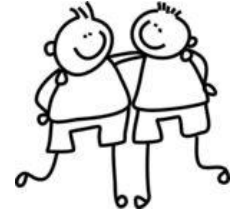




## Family Learning - Early Years



### Tips for Friendships

#### Listen

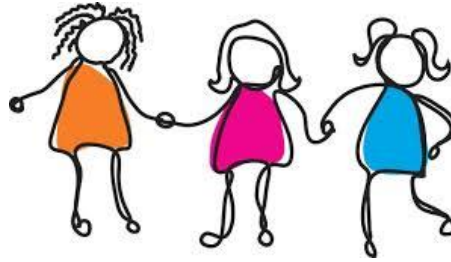
Even at a young age, friendships are complex. Listen to your child's worries and comfort them. Try to show understanding. Children will need support to take turns, share and listen to peers' ideas. The aim is to play co-operatively. Discuss ways to solve problems. Encourage your child to say "Stop, I don't like that" if a friend is being unkind.

#### Role Model

Be a positive role model. Demonstrate how to be a good friend and how to maintain friendships. Let your child hear you give a friend a compliment and show forgiveness. Demonstrate kindness, for example, by giving hugs or sending encouraging notes and cards to friends.

#### Falling Out

It is normal for children to fall out. One minute they are best friends, then they refuse to play with one another. There is no need to dwell on this, children's frustrations are often short-lived. Help them to apologise (say sorry), forgive and move on. Support your child to learn from their mistakes and use kind words and actions (e.g. no pushing).



#### Role-play

Role-play is a fun way to explore social situations. Practise skills such as negotiating, initiating conversations and making new friends. For example, teach your child to say "Can I play with you?" You could try using dolls and puppets.

#### Feelings

Talk about feelings. Say "I wonder if you're feeling upset/lonely/excited". Ask positive questions, for example "What friends did you play happily with today?"

#### Friendship Changes

Be open to changes. At first children may have one special friend, then learn to play in a group. Initially parent/carer social circles influence friendships, but then children make different friends. The length of friendships can vary.

#### Home

Organise play dates with classmates to help develop friendships. These could involve a trip to the park or dinner at home. If your child is invited to a party, try to attend.

#### Manorfield

Talk to staff at Manorfield about your child's friendships. We are here to help. We do not tolerate bullying and generally do not use this term in the Early Years. We talk about 'choices' and whether certain actions/words are the right choice to make. Children are learning how to build positive relationships and often need guidance.