

Use multiple approaches to support friendships

Consider different ways to support student friendships.

- ✓ Encourage students' attempts to make friends by offering guidance about communication approaches and talking about feelings.
- ✓ Be a positive role model and respect individual differences. Model respect, caring, patience, and positive interactions.
- ✓ Promote connections around common interests.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for ongoing student connections.
- ✓ Help students to join ongoing group activities by identifying possible roles they can take.
- ✓ Help keep student interactions going – explain the actions of students whose social skills are just developing.
- ✓ Share information about emergent friendships with parents so that they can arrange for students to get together outside class.

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