



FRIENDSHIP TREE

YEARS F-1

Aim

Students will consider the value and role of friends and what they can do to make and keep them.

Description

All students want to have a friend and school is a great place for this to happen. Learning how to be a good friend takes practice.

Resources

Friendship leaf handout – multiple copies

Large friendship tree on board or wall for decorating

Select one of the following stories to read to the class:

- *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, by Mem Fox, 1984
- *Rose meets Mr Wintergarten*, by Bob Graham, 1992
- *Franklin's new friend*, by Paulette Bourgeois, 1997
- *Do you know Millie?* by Gordon Winch, 2008
- *A visitor for Bear*, by Bonnie Becker, 2008
- *Bear's new friend*, by Karma Wilson, 2006
- *Clancy and Millie and the very fine house*, by Libby Gleeson, 2009
- *Jessica's box*, by Peter Carnavas 2009
- *Quincy and Oscar*, by Kerry Millard 2007

Activity steps

- 1 Introduce the topic of **friends** and tell students that you are going to read a story about a character who had to learn about being a good friend Ask the students to listen for examples in the book.
- 2 Read your chosen book to the class.



- 3 Have students think about what happened in the story.
 - What does the story tell us about friendship?
 - Why is it important to have friends?
 - How do you feel when you have friends?
 - How do you feel when you do not have friends?
 - What words can you use to describe how the characters were feeling?

- 4 Sit students in a circle. Have them think about why it is important to make new friends at school. Allow students to chat to the person next to them about times when they think it would be difficult to make new friends at school. Include ideas such as:
 - starting a new school
 - moving into a new class
 - moving from another country
 - someone else becomes a friend to your friend.

- 5 Have students share their ideas for making new friends at school with the larger group. Some good ideas include:
 - smiling and being friendly
 - inviting a child to play a game
 - joining in a team game
 - finding children with similar interests
 - eating your lunch with someone new
 - offering to help someone do their work
 - doing something nice for someone
 - playing with your friend's friends.

Have students add more of their own ideas to the list.

- 6 Explain to children that we have many different types of friends at school, such as special friends, play friends, and friends for learning. Some friendships last a long time and others only a short time.



- 7 To help us to identify friends around the school explain to students that they will create a class friendship tree. Ask them to:
 - take a friendship leaf and write their name in the centre
 - draw a picture of their face
 - draw or write a way to make a new friend or a place to meet a new friend
 - stick their leaf onto the class friendship tree.
- 8 Remind students to use this tree to remember the names of other children in the class. This can help them to make new friends at school.
- 9 Ask students to think about finding a real 'friendship tree' in the school playground that they can sit under to meet with friends.



FRIENDSHIP LEAF

