

Busy Bee - My World - The World of Friends

Requirement

Tell how you can be a good friend. Use one of the following:

- * role playing
- * puppets
- * other

Goal of this track

To enable the children to encounter God's world with confidence and compassion.

Concept Included in This Component

Social Skills, courtesy, prejudice, peer pressure..

Objective of this component

Upon completion of the Adventurer requirements the children will:

- Know: how to develop and participate in friendships in a positive way,
Feel: confident in social situations, and
Respond: by acting with compassion and courage and thereby enjoying fulfilling friendships.

Background Information

For six-year-old children, "A friend is someone who likes you, and whom you like." As the children first become aware of friends, they think of a friend as someone who does what they want. By the time the children become Busy Bees, they are beginning to understand that being a friend involves some give and take, but it will be several years before they are able to fully understand that friendship is a mutual exchange of caring, respect and trust.

In order to help Busy Bees develop the skills needed for good social relationships, we can capitalise on their interest in fairness. The children need to learn how to relate in a fair and friendly way to all people and to form strong relationships with playmates and close friends. The child who does not easily learn these basic social skills needs extra guidance so that he or she will not become unhappy and negative toward self and others,

Children can be taught to make friends. Help them remember the "rules" outlined below.

1. Remember that you and every other person are special and important.
2. Be friendly - let others know that you care about them.
3. Be interested - listen and do things with the person that he or she enjoys.
4. Be independent - not everyone needs to be your close friend or playmate.
5. Trust God and follow His ways to help you find the right friends.

To develop and maintain a friendship, encourage children to remember the suggestions in the next box.

1. Try to understand your friend's feelings. (Don't always insist on having your own way.)
2. Encourage and praise your friend whenever you can. (Be honest about it.)
3. Don't nag or argue-tell your feelings and listen to your friend's feelings.
4. Do nice things for your friend,
5. Don't try to keep your friend only for yourself.

Encourage children to remember that Jesus is their first and best friend. They will want to choose friends who will help them to be His friend. Being a friend can help others to know what Jesus is like and to want to be His friend.

Teaching Tips

- Introduce the activity by telling and discussing a Bible story about friendship. Make a poster illustrating some principles in the story for making and keeping friends. Some unfinished sentences that can be used to facilitate discussion include:
 - * To me, a friend is . . .
 - * I make friends most easily when,. . .
 - * My friends upset me when . . .
 - * I like it when my friend . . .
 - * I can be a better friend by . . .
- To act out the principles for being a good friend, children may:
 - * Make their own puppets (from paper bags or sticks and cut-out pictures);
 - * Use simple store-bought puppets; or
 - * Plan small role plays or skits.
- Situations such as those suggested here may be written on separate cards in simple language and read with the children.
 - * You are going on a field trip and don't have anyone with whom to sit.
 - * One of the girls in your class is having a picnic for several friends, and you're not invited,
 - * You just moved to a new town, and this is your first day in a new school,
 - * Your friend shows you their new toy, and you have a better one at home.
 - * A friend asks if they can copy answers from your paper.
 - * Some of the other kids in your class tease you because you're short.
 - * One of your friends broke your new game accidentally.
 - * One of your friends broke your new game on purpose.
 - * After the children have tried a few situations, they may want to make up some of their own for their friends to solve. Children may also enjoy taping their performance (audio or video).

- Bible stories and texts:

David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18-20)

Psalm 1:1 - "Walk not in the counsel of the ungodly. . ."

Proverbs 16: 28 - "A whisperer separateth chief friends. . ."

Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loveth at all times. . ."

Proverbs 18:24 - "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

Norm's Notes

The "Teaching Tips" in the manual for this component have many good suggestions. Copy the boxes on pages 57 & 58 of the manual to give to the children to take home. Ask those who cannot yet read for themselves to have their parents remind them of the details.

Keep the discussion at the child's level of what are true friendships.

The material here is taken from pages 14, 26 and 57 - 59 of the printed manual.