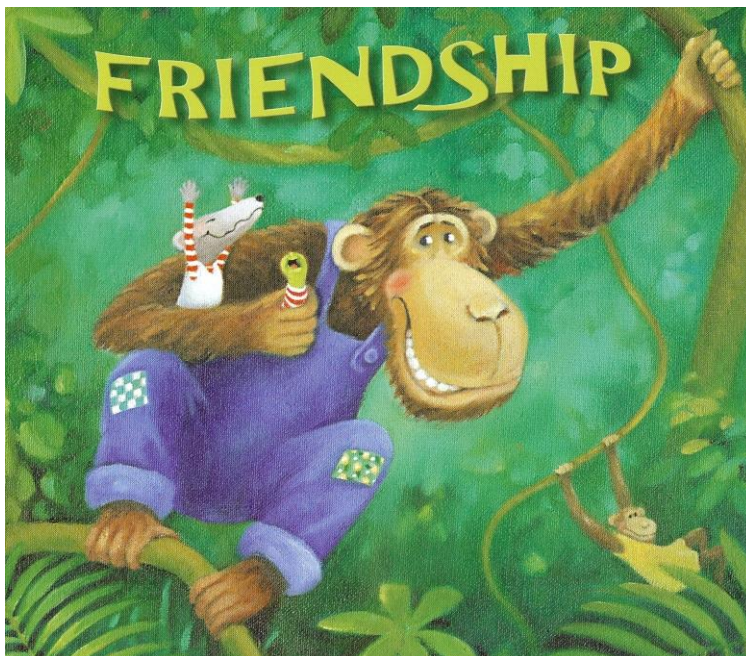


October Building Block: Friendship



*My friends are like a family.
I share with them. They share with me.
Respect your friends in all you do,
And they'll give back respect to you.
You'll find SUCCESS if this you learn:
The gift of FRIENDSHIP must be earned.
To make a friend, I do believe,
That you, yourself, a friend must be.*

*(Excerpt taken from the book,
Inch & Miles: The Journey to Success)*

Developing a Friendship with Your Child

Most of us never really consider ourselves to be our young child's friend. However, we do share a unique form of friendship with him or her. It is unlike any other friendship with another person, and it has the potential to be one of the most powerful relationships our child will ever experience. Perhaps the power of **friendship** is the reason Coach Wooden included it as one of the five foundational character traits in the Pyramid of Success!

Coach Wooden had an exceptional friendship with his father that grew out of respect, admiration, and kindness. When asked about his father, Coach Wooden replied, "My father was a good person. I don't believe there's ever been a better person than my dad." He said, "Thinking back, some of the things he did became so meaningful... For example, he tried to get across to us **never try to be better than someone else. Learn from**

others and never cease trying to be the best you can be at whatever you're doing. He tried to get those ideas across, maybe not in so many words, but by action.” Coach Wooden admired his father because he inspired him to be the best person that he could be, every day of his life. His father treated him with respect, kindness, gentleness, and love—all of the ingredients that are needed to create a great friendship.

A journey is really just a lot of small steps. Start by taking these steps with your family:

1. Create a positive relationship built on friendship with your child. We're many things to our children, and while we may not want to be our child's pal, we can be a friend who is kind, loving, and respectful—a person who will always lend a listening ear.
2. Make memories with your child. Take some time out of your busy day to imprint a memory in your child's mind, whether it's singing a funny song together, reading a story, or just enjoying each other's company.
3. Get to know your child's friends. Make sure that he or she is developing healthy relationships with people who have positive values and beliefs.

Protect your child from bullying by:

- **Define bullying behavior.** If a child is made to feel hurt, embarrassed, uncomfortable, or scared, he or she is being bullied.
- **Dealing with bullying behavior.** Address the issue by teaching your child to walk away or ignore the bullying, or approach your child's teacher about the problem.
- **Supporting your child.** Reassure your child that bullying is not his or her fault and that you are there to help or just listen.

Source: Premier, a member of the School Specialty Family

“Never make excuses. Your friends won't need them and your foes won't believe them.”

~John Wooden~