Friendship Games

1. The Good Friend List

This is a simple, straightforward activity in which children are asked to list what qualities make a good friend. For example, someone who shares toys, someone who doesn’t yell, etc.

2. The Matching Game

Every child gets a marble and has to find the other kids who have the same color marble. They then link arms and stay together until all groups are complete.

This is a fun way to get different kids together and to reinforce the idea that different people can have things in common. It’s also a good way for preschoolers to work on naming colors.

3. That’s Me!

One person stands in front of the group and shares a fact about themselves, like their favorite color or favorite animal. Everyone who also shares that favorite thing stands up and yells, “That’s me!”

Kids love this game because it’s interactive. They get to share their favorite things, there’s fun in not knowing what each child is going to say, and there’s yelling.

It’s a win all around.

4. Red Rover

This is a classic game that’s great for preschoolers to learn their classmates’ names when they ask to “send so-and-so over.” They’ll practice teamwork by holding hands and trying to stop the other person from breaking through. This also gives active preschoolers a reason to get up and move around.

5. The Compliment Game

This game can be done a number of different ways. Kids can sit in a circle and toss a beanbag to each other, or they can just name the next person to get a turn. Regardless, the point is for each child to get a chance to compliment another child in their class.

This teaches kids how to pay compliments, and how nice it is to receive them. It also helps a group of kids get to know each other and become closer.

1. Blindfolded Obstacle Game

Sometimes taking the talking out of an activity makes it easier for self-conscious middle schoolers to get involved.

For this activity, you put kids in small groups of three or four and blindfold one of them. The rest of the group must then guide that person through the obstacle course.

You can also blindfold the entire group. They’ll need to work together to figure out what the obstacle is and how to get through it.

2. In Common

This game is a great activity for breaking down barriers. Kids are put in small groups, ideally with a mix of kids they aren’t already friends with. That group then has to find seven (or whatever number you want) things that they all have in common.

3. Face Time

In Face Time, kids try to identify moods based on facial expressions. By either cutting faces out of magazines or using pictures printed out, groups need to identify what they think that person is feeling and put the faces into piles based on different emotions. The more subtle the expression, the more interesting the conversation.

4. Telephone

This is another classic children’s game that teaches a great lesson about gossip. Children sit in a circle. The starting child picks a sentence or phrase to pass around the circle via whispers. The last child says the sentence out loud, and the whole group laughs about how much the wording may have changed.

Even the simplest piece of information can get garbled and confused as it passes from person to person. This reminds kids not to believe everything they hear, and to go to the source if they want the truth.

5. Friendship Chain

Each child is given a slip of construction paper. On their paper, they write what they think is the most important quality in a friend. Those slips then get taped together to form a chain, which can be hung in the classroom and referred to throughout the year.