



Livingston Youth and Community Services

Parent Assignment #3: Grade 3

Making friends is a skill, just like playing the piano or riding a bike. Skills can be learned and behaviors can be changed. While it may require more effort for some people to be comfortable in groups, it can be learned, especially if the child is willing to put forth the effort and knows that he/she has your support.



Be sure to encourage your child's positive efforts to get along with peers and to find a friend, even when it appears that such attempts have not been successful. Remind him/her of the fine qualities that he/she has that will add to the friendship when just the right person comes along.

Another reminder is that making just the right friend for him/her may take some time and not to give up. Help him/her to see what he/she has to offer as a friend. For example, you might say: "I really appreciate it when my friends call me and invite me places. It makes me feel welcome and accepted. Even on the times when I am not able to go, I still feel good to know they thought of me. That is why I treat them with kindness and respect, because that is how I want to be treated."

The irony is that people, young and old, tend to blame their outward appearances for lack of friends. But it is the inward attitude and character traits that are valued in friendship. We are not searching for lovely nearly as much as loyalty in a companion and buddy. The things you value most about someone is almost never their physical attributes, but character traits and personal skills. If we don't have those skills, we can work on obtaining them by practicing a little each day until it becomes automatic. It is this attitude of openness and willingness to share that is communicated to those we would like to be our friends.

When we realize that it is not our big ears, speech impediment or color of skin that stops others from befriending us, as much as it is how we treat others and feel about ourselves, we will have more to offer a friendship. As you encourage your child to make a list of what he/she is looking for in a friend, be sure to mention that appearances may be deceiving. Hopefully, your child will draw his/her own conclusions that he/she is a valuable person and has much to bring to a relationship. And likewise, there may very well be many people who meet the criteria of a friend that she has been overlooking.

It is more empowering for a child to list his/her own positive qualities that will make him/her a valuable friend than for you to do it for them. This is their work, but you are the support team. You cannot make your child happy, popular, talented or attractive to other children. If you think you can, you will be setting both of you up for disappointment and a great deal of frustration.

What you can do is offer suggestions, assistance, opportunities and options. Hopefully, they will recognize the clues of social interaction and 'click' with a good group of friends who will support them in their school years and become life long buddies.

How you manage social situations affects the way your children view social interaction. If you have meaningful relationships that add pleasure to your life, they will see that and want to have the same thing

Source: <http://www.articlesbase.com/parenting-articles/>

Assignment

Ask your child to review the day's lesson, and handouts with you. Discuss their feelings about the lesson, and any issues that may have come up for them that day in school.

Choose one or more of the following:

1. Make a list with your child of all his/her positive qualities. Make a list of the qualities he/she wants in a friend. Brainstorm names of children who meet the desired qualities and plan an activity that these children can be invited to.
2. Make a list of names of children your child likes. Host a game-night, barbecue and invite the children on the list (and their parents). This will give you the opportunity to meet other parents and your child the chance to make friends.
3. Host a sleep-over at your house and support your child in hosting the event; from making a list of names to choosing activities for the evening.
4. Share with your child your experiences, both negative and positive you have had with making new friends. What was the situation? What did you do? How did you feel? How did you resolve the situation? Were you successful in making friends? If not, why not, and what would you do different next time?



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Parent Assignment #3: Grade 3 Friends

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Which assignment did you choose, and why? _____

Was this lesson helpful? Yes/ No

Please explain _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Raffle Entry

Parent Assignment #3: Grade 3 Friends

Student's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

School: _____ Grade 3

Please complete this sheet and return to LYCS, PO Box 822, Livingston, NJ 07039,
Fax: 973-992-9318, email: lycs@livingston.org, or leave at reception in school