

Community Collective Worship – Teacher Guidance (EYFS, 2)

Start with a **Friendship Game**, either one from this list or another one that you like using.

If the children aren't sure of everyone's names yet, then focus on using and remembering these.

- E.g. give everyone a coloured cube and ask them to find other children with the same colour and make a group together. Different people can still have things in common. You could use farm animals, or anything else you have to hand in your classroom. You can also do this with matching pairs of socks, if you have enough different colours and patterns for everyone to find a partner. It's good for mixing children up and thinking about other people in the class.
- The beanbag game: sit in a circle, throw a beanbag to someone (or roll a ball) and say why they're a good friend. That child throws the beanbag to someone else and says something they like about them – and so on.
- Pass the Smile: sit in a circle and smile at the first child. They make eye contact with the child next to them and pass the smile on. And so on round the circle. You can also pass a nod or a wink, or other facial expressions.
- Pass the teddy: Tell them that the teddy is happy because their friend sat with them at lunchtime. The children pass the teddy round and everyone says something that they appreciate about a friend. They can only talk when they're holding the teddy.
- Hello My Friend: Sit a child in the centre of the circle with their eyes closed or a blindfold. One of the children comes up to them and says, 'Hello my friend, do you know who I am?' If they guess correctly, then that child sits in the middle, if not then the games continues with another child.

Gathering

Slide 1 Start worship in your usual way, e.g. lighting a candle, saying the school prayer etc. You may have special resources that you get out so that the children know that this is a special time.

Engaging

Slide 2 Last time we were talking about being friends.

How do you feel when you play with your friends? What makes them special?

Slide 3 Does anybody know who the man in this picture is? (It's Jesus) Nobody knows what Jesus really looked like, because he lived a long time ago, so people have drawn him in different ways.

In this picture we can see him with lots of children, he liked talking to children and spending time with them.

Sometimes people thought that he was too busy to be friends with children and they tried to shoo the children away, but Jesus always told them that children were important and that he wanted to be friends with them.

You could read this story from the [Lion Storyteller Bible](#) (Jesus and the Children p111), or the Lion First Bible. Or you can find the Desmond Tutu Children of God Storybook Bible version at the end of this resource.

I wonder how the story made you feel?

Responding

Slide 4

Christians believe that Jesus is their friend and that they can talk to him any time they want to, even though they can't see him.

Prayer is a way of talking to God, just like talking to a friend.

Ask the children to listen while you read this prayer.

'Amen' means 'I agree,' so invite them to say 'Amen' at the end if they agree with the words.

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us friends.
Please help us to be a good friend to other children.
Thank you that Jesus can be a special friend to us.
Amen.

Slide 7 If your class have been in collective worship with the older children and have heard this song already, you could play ['Life is Always Better'](#) (the flourishing song) to finish your class worship time. Explain to them that it's all about having friends and getting on with other people.

Alternatively, there may be a song your children already know about friendship, such as the [Cbeebies Friendship Song](#), or [Friends, Friends 1,2,3](#)

Sending

Challenge the children to play with someone today who they don't normally play with.

Follow up activities: You may like to do one or more of these activities (or one of your own ideas) to reinforce the idea of friendship.

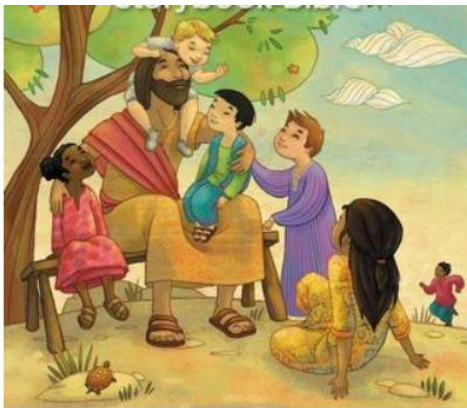
- Paint or draw a picture of a friend (this could include a pet or a toy, as in the video).
- Make a display out of handprints, to show that in some ways we're all different and in some ways we're all the same, but we can all be friends.
- Make a simple friendship bracelet.
- Make a paper chain with the name of each child and a reason why they're a good friend.



- Or make a paper doll chain with the children's ideas about how to be a good friend.
- Share some books about friendship, such as *The Rainbow Fish*, *Beegu*, *Elmer's Friends*, *Duck and Penguin are not Friends*, *My Friend Fred* etc
- Hand out friendship awards when you spot children sharing, taking turns, being kind to each other, including others in their games etc.



Jesus Blesses the Little Children *From the Children of God Storybook Bible*



Jesus spent many hours teaching people about God and how he loves us all. One day, when Jesus was tired and resting, some parents arrived with their children. The children were giggling and laughing and running around making noise while their parents asked the disciples if they could speak with Jesus.

'What do you want with the master?' asked the disciples.

'We want him to bless our children.'

'The master is resting,' the disciples said. 'You can't bother him now. Go home.'

But Jesus heard them. 'Do not chase away the children!' he called, 'Let them come to me. God loves children, and when they smile, he smiles; when they laugh, he laughs; when they cry, he cries.'

Jesus went to the children, and they laughed and played together for a while. He took them in his arms and hugged them. He placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. Then he told the disciples, 'Everyone who wants to see God's dream come true must see with the eyes of a child,'

