

Friendship Activities

(From *Mister Rogers Playtime*, Fred Rogers)

Paper Chains

1. Materials Needed
 - Colored construction paper
 - Scissors
 - Glue or tape
2. Instructions
 - Show children how to cut paper into strips
 - Make loops from paper and tape or glue together
 - Show children how to thread loops together to make a chain
 - Challenge the children to make the chain as long as they can
 - Hang completed chain around room
3. Skills Developed
 - Teamwork (a single child cannot make a long chain, but by working together, many children can make a chain that can circle the classroom!)
 - Fine motor skills

Silly Folded Pictures

1. Materials Needed
 - Paper
 - Markers, crayons, pens, or pencils
2. Instructions
 - Fold sheet of paper into thirds, so that only the top third is showing
 - Have one child draw a person or animal head on the top third
 - Fold that section of paper under, so that only the middle third is showing
 - Pass the paper to another child
 - The second child draws the body of a person or animal
 - Fold the middle section under so that only the bottom third is showing
 - Pass the paper to a third child
 - The third child draws the legs of a person or animal
 - Unfold the paper and show the silly picture
 - Write the names of all three children on the picture and display
3. Skills Developed
 - Teamwork
 - Appreciating other's ideas
 - Fine motor skills
 - Imagination

Taking Turns

1. Materials Needed
 - Numbered Spinner
 - 3x5 index cards
2. Instructions
 - Write activities on index cards
 - Children can suggest activities
 - Possible Activities: clap your hands, whisper “no thank you,” turn around, touch your toes, shout “yes please,” say your name, knock on the door
 - Mix up the cards
 - Have children pick a card, then spin the spinner to see how many times they should do the activity on the card
 - Example, if the child spins 4 and has “say your name” – he says his name 4 times
3. Skills Developed
 - Taking turns
 - Patience
 - Literacy
 - Number recognition

Clothespin Cooperation Game

1. Materials Needed
 - One clothespin per child
 - String, yarn, or clothesline cut into pieces (one piece per child)
 - Plastic milk jug with narrow opening
2. Instructions
 - Tie pieces of yarn onto clothespins and put the clothespins inside the milk jug with only the strings hanging out
 - Tell children to pull the clothespins from the jar at the same time
 - Ask: What happens if they all try to pull at the same time?
 - Discuss: Can we think of a better way to get the clothespins out?
3. Skills Developed
 - Cooperation
 - Taking turns
 - Patience
 - Fine motor skills

Room to Share

1. Materials Needed

- Long piece of paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

2. Instructions

- Unroll paper to the length of the work area (floor or table). Use tape to hold ends down.
- Help children work together to create a mural by asking questions:
 - How can we decide where each person should draw?
 - Should each person draw a part of one picture or should each person draw his own picture?
 - Should we use a theme (ocean, garden, circus, picnic, etc)?
- Once the children have created a plan, let them work on the mural together

3. Skills Developed

- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Decision-making
- Appreciating other's ideas
- Fine motor skills

Fishing for Words

1. Materials Needed

- Magnet
- String
- Pencil or ruler
- Fish shapes cut from heavy paper
- Paper clips
- Bucket or pan

2. Instructions

- Tie a magnet to string and fasten to pencil or ruler
- Place paper clips on fish shapes
- On each fish, write an activity, such as
 - Pretend to be a baby
 - Walk like a tall person
 - Pretend to be an animal
 - Pretend to be a dancer
- Put the fish in a bucket and let children try to catch a fish
 - When a fish is caught, the child does the activity and passes the rod onto the next person

3. Skills Developed

- Taking turns
- Persistence
- Patience
- Pretending
- Literacy

Pizza Factory

1. Materials Needed

- Bagels or English muffins (cut in half)
- Bowls for toppings
- Tomato sauce
- Cheese slices
- Pizza toppings
- Spoons
- Baking sheet

2. Instructions

- Lay out ingredients in a line on the table so that each child can have his own workspace
- Help children determine who will do the tasks necessary to make the pizzas, including
 - Spreading sauce
 - Putting on cheese slices
 - Adding toppings
 - Putting pizzas on cookie sheet
 - Let children know that for safety reasons, the adult will put the tray in the oven
- When jobs are assigned, everyone can help create pizzas.
- When pizzas are completed, the adult places the pizzas under the oven broiler and broils until cheese is melted
- Everyone can enjoy the pizzas

3. Skills Developed

- Teamwork
- Fine motor skills
- Healthy food choices

Mirror Images

1. Materials Needed

- Peer partners

2. Instructions

- Have partners stand in pairs, facing each other (as if looking in a mirror)
- One child starts as leader and one as follower
- The leader moves and the follower imitates the movement
- Change roles so that each partner can be leader

3. Skills Developed

- Empathy
- Observation skills
- Taking turns
- Coordination

What's Your Job?

1. Materials Needed

- Job chart (large piece of paper with classroom jobs listed; one job per child)
- Numbered spinner

2. Instructions

- Put a number beside each classroom job
- Children take turns spinning to select a job for the week
 - If you only have a 6 number spinner and more than 6 jobs, you can assign duplicate numbers to jobs (example, number 3 can be for line leader, trash helper, door holder)
 - Children can select from any job at the number spun (example, if number 3 is spun, child can select from line leader, trash helper or door holder) the next child who spins 3 can select from the remaining jobs (example, first child selects line leader, next child chooses from trash helper or door holder)
- Write child's name on the job chart next to the job they have selected

3. Skills Developed

- Responsibility/Helping
- Literacy
- Number recognition

More Friendship Activities

(Rochelle Lentini & Pam Buschbacher, University of South Florida, 2000)

Marble Painting

1. Materials

- Box lid
- Small paper cup
- Liquid soap
- Paint
- Plastic spoon
- Marble
- Paper

2. Instructions

- Mix a few drops of liquid soap to paint in small paper cup (the soap helps with clean up). Drop 2-3 marbles in each cup.
- Place paper in box lid.
- Pair children up to create pictures together.
- Children select colors of paint and use plastic spoons to take marbles out of the paint cups. Marbles are dropped onto the paper in the box lid.
- Children work together to tip and twist the box lid, making the marble roll and create paint patterns.

3. Skills Developed

- Teamwork
- Fine motor skills

Train Set

1. Materials

- Train track pieces
- Trains

2. Instructions

- In small groups, children work together to build a train track.
- Children can share or take turns driving trains on the track they have built.

3. Skills Developed

- Teamwork
- Sharing/Turn taking
- Fine motor skills

Hand & Feet Art

1. Materials
 - Paper
 - Crayons or markers
2. Instructions
 - In pairs children trace each other's hands and feet on paper.
 - Children can decorate their own hands and feet or decorate the hands and feet of their friends.
3. Skills Developed
 - Teamwork
 - Turn taking
 - Creativity
 - Fine motor skills

Tents, Caves, Forts

1. Materials
 - Bed sheet
 - Chairs
 - Flashlights
 - Pillows
2. Instructions
 - Create a tent, cave or fort by draping a bed sheet over chairs.
 - Children can climb in, out and around the structure.
 - In small groups, have children select an activity to do together inside the structure.
3. Skills Developed
 - Teamwork
 - Turn taking/Sharing
 - Creativity
 - Gross motor skills

Ball Bounce

1. Materials
 - Bed sheet or parachute
 - Ball
2. Instructions
 - Have children each hold part of the sheet or parachute.
 - Toss ball in the center of the sheet or parachute.
 - Have children work together to bounce the ball around the sheet or parachute without falling out.
3. Skills Developed
 - Teamwork
 - Communication skills
 - Gross motor skills