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