

With simple, repetitive text and bright, engaging illustrations, this book shows the power of everyday acts of kindness.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

RELATE



Children will:

- ◆ Participate in simple back and forth exchanges with another child

Teachers will:

- ◆ Acknowledge positive peer interactions

TEACHING TIP

As young children develop, they often show interest in engaging with their peers. Peer interactions can range from smiling at or reaching out to another child all the way to playing beside or (briefly) *with* others. Young children need your help to form positive connections with peers of all races, genders, abilities, and cultures. One way to do this is by sharing books that show characters engaged in positive social behaviors. You can point out friendship skills as you read, like smiling at others or taking turns, and link them to positive feelings (e.g., “These children are waving and smiling. They look *happy* to see each other!”). Then, as children play near or interact with others throughout the day, you can acknowledge and reinforce their use of positive social behaviors. This will help them begin to enjoy each other’s company and set the foundation for developing friendships.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Look at the cover of this book. These children are showing kindness to their friends. When you are kind, you use gentle bodies and nice words with others. Being kind makes us feel happy and loved. This book is called, *Kindness Makes Us Strong.*”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to describe how the characters show kindness and how it makes others feel.
- ◆ Acknowledge children’s positive peer interactions in the classroom.

Acknowledge Positive Peer Interactions

Read: “Kindness is saying hello.”

Describe: “Hello is a nice word. These friends are smiling and waving. They look happy to see each other.”

Acknowledge: “We are kind when we wave and say hello to our friends at circle time. Can you say hello now? ‘Hello!’”

Read: “Kindness is taking turns.”

Describe: “All the friends are excited to jump. So, they are standing in line with gentle bodies, so everyone gets a turn to play. They can all have fun together.”

Acknowledge: “When do we take turns? When we take turns with toys at choice time, we are being kind.”

Read: “Kindness is offering comfort.”

Describe: “Look! This friend is hugging her friend who is crying and sad. That is so kind.”

Acknowledge: “We can give gentle hugs to friends when they feel sad. Can you gently hug a friend now? How does that feel? I feel happy and loved when friends give me hugs.”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Being kind to friends makes us feel happy and loved. Let’s think of some ways we can be kind to each other today!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Create opportunities for infants and toddlers to engage in shared experiences (e.g., playing with similar toys or painting together on one large piece of paper) or tasks (e.g., singing together or cleaning up toys). Acknowledge all positive peer interactions, from looking up at another child, to smiling at others, or playing with the same toys near one another. Be intentional about peer pairings to promote positive experiences.