



## **ABC Year 3—FRIENDS TO THE END FOR KIDS**

*The True Value of Friendship*

By Bradley Trevor Greive

### ***Friends to the End for Kids* by Bradley Trevor Greive**

Watching children befriend one another carries lessons for all of us. They quickly step outside of themselves, give one another a chance, invest everything in the moment, and trade hugs at the earliest possible opportunity. Such is the stuff of true friendship. This combination of captivating animal photography and direct, eloquent words reinforce with gentle humor what kids already know in their hearts: that friendship is about love, loyalty, and—most of all—fun.

**Asset Category:** Social Competencies

**Success Category:** Friendship

**Asset Focus:**

#3 Other Adult Relationships

#5 Caring School Climate

#8 Children as Resources

#15 Positive Peer Influence

#26 Caring

#28 Integrity

#30 Responsibility

#33 Interpersonal Competence

#36 Peaceful Conflict Resolution

#37 Personal Power

#40 Self-Esteem

### **Tip**

Because this is your first classroom visit, you should spend a little time setting the mood and your expectations with the students. Take your time to introduce yourself. Tell them a little bit about yourself. Ask them their names or make sure they are wearing their nametags. Go over the ABC classroom rules with them. Some will remember them from years past, but for some, this will be their first time in an ABC program. If you bring the ABC Rules Sign, you can ask the teacher to post them in a special ABC area. (The sign is found in the volunteer training binder.)

### **Lesson**

Show the class the cover of the book. Read the title and author, and Ask, “Have any of you read anything else by this author?” One answer would be *A Blue Day Book for Kids*, which was read last year. Have the students look closely at the cover and title. Ask “Do you see a similarity between *A Blue Day Book for Kids* and *Friends to the End for Kids*?” (The answer should be that the author used photos of animals in both books to tell his story.) Ask, “What do you think this book will be about?” As we read this book, I want you to think about friendship and what makes a good friend.

## **Read**

Read the book to the students. Be sure to show them the photos. You may have to walk around the classroom as they are hard to see from far away.

## **Discussion**

During your discussion time, encourage the children to be kind to everyone. Have them be on the lookout for new friends or children new to the school. Promote the idea of playing with different people at recess or after school. Talk about things they can do that create an encouraging environment for students to be creative in finding ways to invite and include others in play.

Choose a few questions to ask the students:

- Why is talking about friendship “like chewing ten pieces of bubble gum at the same time”?
- What makes a good friend? What characteristics do you like in a friend?
- Why is it important to have a friend?
- What did some of the animals do with their friend? What do you like to do with your friend?
- What are some things you like to do alone?
- Have you fought or had a disagreement with a friend? What happened?
- How do you know that someone is your friend?

## **Activity**

Activities with \* can be adapted or are appropriate for primary grades 1-2. Please choose one activity that best meets the needs of your classroom.

### **\*I Have Lots of Friends Game**

1. Have children stand up and form a circle. (You may want to go outside and stand around a drawn circle on the black top.)
2. Walk around the circle and touch one child on the circle. That child stands in the center of the circle while the others put on their “listening ears.”
3. Ask the standing child to think of a favorite activity, such as playing tag. Then have the child call out, “I have lots of friends who like to play tag at recess.”
4. All the students who like to play tag at recess should jump up and join the child in the middle.
5. When you clap your hands two times, everyone should move back to the outside of the circle.
6. Choose another child to go to the middle and repeat.

You may need to help the callers come up with some ideas such as building with blocks, swinging on the swings, playing card games, etc. As they play the game, help them notice all the students who enjoy the same activities and how they can play with lots of different people at school and home.

### \*Friendship Mural

This activity requires the following materials:

- Slips of paper with children's names written on them
  - Drawing paper
  - Crayons or markers, pencils or pens
1. Place the name slips in a bag or other container.
  2. Have each child draw the name of another child in the group. (If your group has an uneven number of children, draw the name of a child who will draw two names from the container.)
  3. Say "We are going to make a mural that shows how we can play with different friends. On your paper, draw a picture of yourself playing with the friend whose name you drew."
  4. When children are done drawing, have them write (or dictate for you to write) a description of what they are doing with their friends in their pictures. The pictures may depict actual or imagined play. Each child will be featured in two pictures: one drawn by the child and one by a classmate.
  5. Display the pictures as a mural and label it "Friendship Mural."

Adaptation: Divide the class into groups of four students each. Pass out large butcher paper. Have each group decide on a scene to draw. Draw pictures that go with the scene and add sentences. Have each group report back to the group about their mural.

### \*Friendship Graph

This activity requires the following materials:

- large sheet of paper
- markers

Have students brainstorm all the things they do with their friends. Make a list of their ideas in a column format on a large sheet of paper. Then have them vote on what their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite thing to do is. At the end, challenge them to find a new friend to do one of these activities with. For example:

What I do With My Friends:	(Tally kids who vote for this)
Roller skate	
Play video games	
Read books	
Climb trees	

### Friendship Action Plans

This activity requires the following materials:

- Classroom writing paper to record ideas
- Pencils
- Large butcher paper or white board

After reading the book, talk with the class about friends and friendship. Divide them into groups of four, and have them come up with an action plan that promotes making and doing things with new friends. Encourage them to think of school, and after school ideas. Let their ideas be creative—parties, video playing etc. Assign a moderator to keep the discussion going, a recorder to write down ideas, a reporter who will report to the whole class and a timer that keeps track of their time.

Let them spend about 10 minutes in their group. Ask the recorders to report their group's ideas to the class. Make a list of their ideas for them to post in a visible spot. Ask them to see if they can implement up to five of the ideas before you return in a month. (If you are in the classroom on a more regular basis, you can do a verbal check with them or ask the teacher if you can return to do one special activity.)

### **Friendship Manual**

This activity requires the following materials:

- Large butcher paper or white board
- Writing paper that is used in the classroom
- Construction paper for cover and back

Brainstorm lots of ways to make and keep friends. Write the ideas down on a large butcher sheet or the white board; just having a discussion may be appropriate for older grades.

Then, pass out a sheet of writing paper. Explain that you want the class to write a classroom manual on how to make and keep friends. Have the students write and illustrate their ideas. You can ask them to share, if time permits. To make the manual, collect their ideas and put between the construction paper.