

Friendship Chains

This unit is about inclusiveness, which involves talking with students about friendship. This project will give students an opportunity to synthesize their learning on friendship and apply the principles of what makes a good friend to their classmates. The objective is to build unity among students and encourage inclusiveness among everyone as each person will have a place on the friendship chain.

Inclusiveness Sub-Concept(s)

Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- ❑ Friendship video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReMq3KX8F94>
- ❑ Construction paper strips/markers/tape or stapler—for making friendship chain

Project Details:

First, have students watch the video “What Makes a Good Friend?”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReMq3KX8F94>. Have students discuss which qualities make a good friend. What are some other qualities that you think make a good friend? Allow students to brainstorm and write their responses on chart paper with “Qualities of a Friend” written at the top. Alternatively, you can break students into groups and have them make their own posters. If students are having trouble by answering with one word answers, like “nice” prompt them by asking, “What does that look like?” or, “How do people show that?”

Next, pass out, to each student, a medium/large strip of construction paper that can be easily made into a paper chain. On the strip of paper, have students write their name. Next, have students pass their strip going right, left, front, or back, whatever works for your seating arrangement. When students get a name, they write down one friendship quality that they see in that particular person. When they are done, they pass the strip on again in the same direction. This continues until the strips have been around the whole room and end up back at the original student. Students read all the great friendship qualities that others wrote about them.

Wrap Up:

As a class, have everyone weave their strips through each other and staple or tape the ends of the strips to make one long friendship chain. Display the friendship chain in a prominent place in the classroom.

Today we had the chance to look at a lot of qualities good friends have. These are all ways of showing kindness and inclusiveness to others. We showed great kindness by telling others how much we appreciate their friendly qualities. We showed inclusiveness by linking all of our names together to show that we each have unique qualities that make us good friends to one another.

Proposed Lesson Outcomes:

Students will:

- Identify the qualities of a friend.
- Apply identified friendship qualities to people in their class

Optional Extension Activity

- Complete the Home Extension Activity (see the original Unit 1, Lesson 2). Write the return date on the sheet before you distribute it. You may want to distribute the sheet with the Friday folders and have it returned on Monday. Hand out the Home Extension Activity. *We have been talking about what it means to be a friend and I want you to talk about these ideas with a parent, guardian, or another adult who cares for you. Please put this in your folder and return by (date).*

After the students bring back their sheet, ask the following questions:

- What does it mean to be a friend in your family or household?
- What are some ways that you discussed to help develop strong, healthy relationships in your family or household?



DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>