

## Teachers and Parents “Social Skills Coaching”



Describing, modeling, prompting, and praising children’s friendly behaviors is a powerful way to strengthen children’s social skills. Social skills are the first steps to making close friendships. The following is a list of social skills that you can both model and comment on when playing with your child or when your child is playing with a friend. Combine picture prompts with physical gestures when social coaching and reduce the number of words according to child’s communication level. Use this checklist to target the skills you want to focus on and write down the verbal and nonverbal communication you will use.

| Social/Friendship Skills   | Goals |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> helping<br><input type="checkbox"/> sharing<br><input type="checkbox"/> teamwork<br><input type="checkbox"/> using a friendly voice (quiet, polite)<br><input type="checkbox"/> eye contact<br><input type="checkbox"/> listening to what a friend says<br><input type="checkbox"/> taking turns<br><input type="checkbox"/> asking<br><input type="checkbox"/> trading<br><input type="checkbox"/> waiting<br><input type="checkbox"/> responding to a friend’s suggestion<br><input type="checkbox"/> gesturing (e.g., pointing)<br><input type="checkbox"/> smiling at peer<br><input type="checkbox"/> using soft, gentle touch<br><input type="checkbox"/> asking or gesturing to use something a friend has<br><input type="checkbox"/> cooperating<br><input type="checkbox"/> including another in play |       |

### Prompting

- “Your friend is asking for a block. Can you give him that block?” (Praise child if s/he tries to help and/or point to yellow block, or put block in child’s hand and give to other child)
- “Oops. You can say ‘I am sorry’ to your friend.”

### Modeling Friendly Behavior

- Parents and teachers can model asking, waiting, taking turns, helping, and complimenting, so children know what these social skills look like. For example, “I’m your friend (pat your chest) and share my block with you.” (give block to child & show Sharing picture cue card.)