

Buzz



Facilitating Children’s Social Learning: Parents as “Social Skills Coaches”

Describing and prompting children’s friendly behaviors is a powerful way to strengthen children’s social skills. Social skills are the first steps to making lasting friendships. The following is a list of social skills that you can comment on when playing with a child or when a child is playing with a friend. Use this checklist and decide what words you would use with your child depending on your goals for promoting your child’s social skills.



Feelings/Emotional Literacy	Goals
<input type="checkbox"/> helping <input type="checkbox"/> sharing <input type="checkbox"/> teamwork <input type="checkbox"/> using a friendly voice (quiet, polite)	
<input type="checkbox"/> listening to what a friends says <input type="checkbox"/> taking turns <input type="checkbox"/> asking <input type="checkbox"/> trading <input type="checkbox"/> waiting	
<input type="checkbox"/> agreeing with a friend’s suggestion <input type="checkbox"/> making a suggestion <input type="checkbox"/> giving a compliment <input type="checkbox"/> using soft, gentle touch <input type="checkbox"/> asking permission to use something a friend has <input type="checkbox"/> problem solving <input type="checkbox"/> cooperating <input type="checkbox"/> being generous <input type="checkbox"/> including others <input type="checkbox"/> apologizing	

Prompting

- “Look at what your friend has made. Do you think you can give him a compliment?” (praise child if s/he tries to give a compliment)
- “You did that by accident. Do you think you can say you are sorry to your friend?”

Modeling Friendly Behavior

- Parents can model waiting, taking turns, helping, and complimenting, which also teach children these social skills.