



### **Activities to Encourage Friendship**

1. **Play Games.** Games are a great way to build the social skills that are essential for making friends. These skills include turn taking, and winning and losing. You can start with a simple and easy game such as Candyland, then build up to more difficult ones. Once your child is used to the notion of turn-taking and winning and losing, invite a friend to join in.
2. **Read and Talk About Friendship.** Children can learn so much from the narrative of a story. Books about friendship can teach not only ways to make friends, but also ways to resolve minor conflict. In addition to reading the story, discuss the story with your child. Talk about the characters and their feelings, as well as the problem/conflict in the story. This will help your child learn how to be a friend.
3. **Get Your Child Involved in Activities that Help Others.** When children participate in activities that help others, they develop empathy and compassion. By helping someone in need, your child will learn to care for others, and be able to consider perspectives outside of their own. Some easy activities include collecting toys for a children's hospital, donating old toys to a shelter, or making a get well card for a friend.