



FRIENDSHIP & SELF-ESTEEM

*We are never more fully alive, more completely ourselves,
or more deeply engrossed in anything than
when we are playing.*
Charles Schaefer

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Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum addresses overcoming bullying in a way young children can understand. With its charming characters, subtle wit and colorful illustrations, this is the perfect book about school for young children.

Ages: 4 to 6 Years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Talk with children about teasing and how it makes Chrysanthemum feel. Ask the kids why the other girls tease Chrysanthemum.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Create a "role call" poster to mimic the book. Take a photo of each child and write their name on the photo like in the book. Talk about what each child's name means to them. Ask kids to go home and talk to their parents about why they chose that particular name for their child and have kids share the story. Count the letters in each child's name. Pose the question to the children that if they could be named after any flower, fruit, or vegetable "what would their name be?" Talk about teasing vs tolerance of a name that sounds unusual to you. Come up with some strategies to make other kids feel positive about their name if they have unusual names.

Kit Supplies: roll call cards with space for photos and names

Supplies provided by childcare provider: camera, photos of each child

- 2) Make name tags for each child and ask kids to personalize their names by drawing their favorite things on the nametag.

Kit Supplies: blank name tags and lanyards; markers

- 3) Measure how long each child's name is with links. Spell each child's name and have them add a link to their name for each letter. Hang the links by your role call poster under each child's name.

Kit Supplies: Bright Starts Lots of Links



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Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.
Mr. Rogers.

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I Can Do It Too! by Karen Baicker

I Can Do It Too shares the proud first words of a child's independence and celebrates just how wonderful growing up surrounded by love and nurturing can be to a young child.

Ages: 0 to 3 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- While reading the story, ask children to shout out "I Can Do It Too" when those lines appear in the story.
- Play along with the children, going back and forth, as you read the book, copying the actions in the story.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Create Salt Dough and have the children help measure, pour, stir just like in the book.

Kit Supplies: salt dough recipe

- 2) Play a game of "I Can Do It Too!" Sit in a circle and ask each child one at a time to stand up and name something they can do. Once the child says what they can do (I can put on my shoes) have all the kids who can do that too stand up together and shout "I Can Do That Too!"





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Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.
O. Fred Donaldson

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Nino Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales

Nino Wrestles the World is a bilingual book based on the life of Nino, a boy playing with his lucha libre wrestling ring with masked wrestlers (professional wrestling in Mexico). One by one, Nino defeats his opponents (the Mummy of Guanajuato, the Alien, and more) until he faces the toughest wrestler of all – his little sister, Las Hermanitas! Enticing comic book character descriptions on book ends make the story engaging to young listeners.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 4 to 6 years

- Read the bios of all the wrestlers before you read the story so the children can identify who's who.
- Have kids act out the sounds of Nino's wrestling opponents as you read the story.
- Talk with children about why the lucha libre wrestlers would want to wear a mask to hide their identity. When do children wear masks?

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Create lucha libre biography cards for each of the children using cards included in the kit. Each child will need to decide what their professional wrestling name is, their battle cry and wrestling style. Room on the card for a personal photo of each child helps to personalize the cards.
Kit Supplies: blank lucha libre bio cards
- 2) Make lucha libre masks for children to wear while you're reading the story.
Kit Supplies: lucha libre mask templates, metallic paper, glue, stickers
- 3) Make your own lucha libre wrestling mat and have a thumb wrestling tournament!
Kit Supplies: laminated wrestling mat, guide to turning your thumb into a lucha libre wrestler, washi tape





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*Play is our brains favorite way
of learning.*
Diane Ackeman

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Gossie and Gertie by Olivier Dunrea

Gossie and Gertie are best friends and Gertie follows Gossie everywhere until the day that she decides to take the lead in their friendship.

Ages: 0 to 3 years

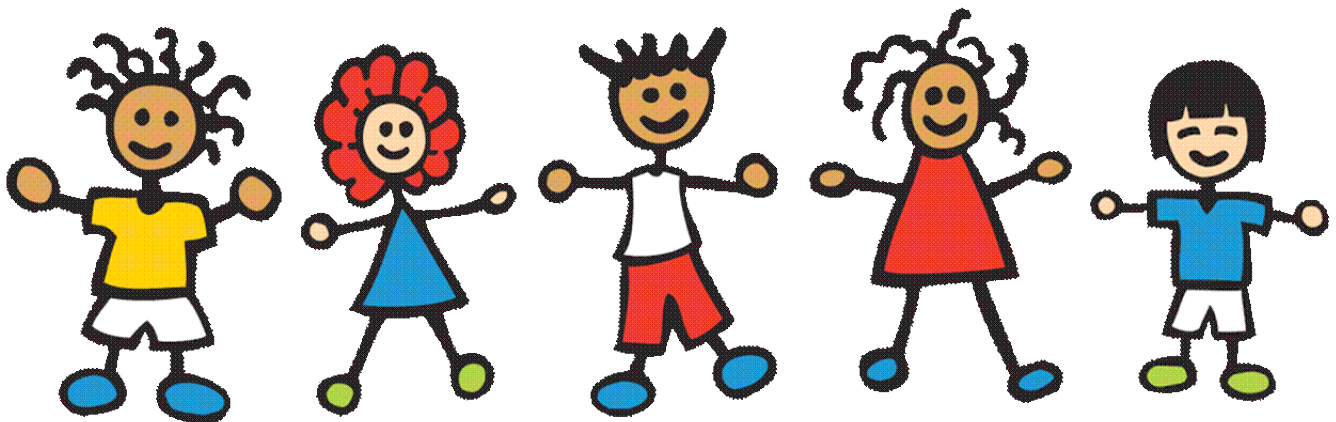
Explore the Book Ideas:

- Ask children to name the things in the illustrations, i.e. frog, butterfly.
- Talk about friendship and how sometimes friends like to do the same things and sometimes they don't.

Playful Activity Ideas:

1) Play Follow the Leader allowing children to switch roles between leaders and followers. Make your own leader cape for kids to wear when they're in the role of the leader.

Kit Supplies: make your own action cape, fabric markers





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*Whoever wants to understand
much must play much.*
Gottfried Benn

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It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr

It's Okay to Be Different inspires kids and adults to embrace their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence.

Ages: 0 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Each page can be a jumping off point for a group discussion about acceptance of differences.

Playful Activity Ideas:

1) Draw the body outline of each child on large roll of butcher paper and ask children to color in their body. Hang up the "bodies" on a large open wall. Talk about what's the same about each child (two feet, a mouth) and talk about what's different (different size noses, glasses, skin color, etc.). Talking about what's different about each of us and how it's okay to be different helps children to learn communication skills and build understanding of the world around them. This activity can also be done outside using sidewalk chalk in good weather.

Kit Supplies: butcher paper roll, markers, sidewalk chalk

2) Foster your children's self-esteem by having them roll 3 color-coded wooden blocks featuring different who, what, where, or when pictures to inspire endless story combinations! Children will build their self-confidence as they practice communicating through storytelling.

Kit Supplies: wooden story blocks

3) Explore children from different parts of the world and their animals with this wooden puzzle box.

Kit Supplies: Children of the World floor puzzle

