



Being a Good Friend

Sharing, waiting, taking turns, and noticing and doing something to help when a friend is upset — these are the skills of being a good friend. Kids begin to learn them in preschool. As they get older, they will build on them to be a good team member and a good community member, too.

In the friendship dance, Ralph the hedgehog learns one way to be a good friend to Mandy. Because being a good friend means practicing helpful friendship skills.

Important skills from the video

- Getting along with others helps you to be a good friend and a good family and community member.
- Other good friendship skills include helping, listening, sharing, taking turns, being flexible, and finding a middle ground when you don't agree.

PRACTICE SKILLS

- Model helpful friendship skills. This means talking about and showing how you use helpful friendship skills. You might say:



“It really felt good to share my favorite book with my friend, Sarah.”

“Our neighbor Nancy isn't feeling good. I thought we could bake her some cookies, so she knows we are thinking of her.”

- Find ways for your child to practice friendship skills at playdates, in groups, or even at home.
- When they use these skills, tell them that they did a good job and name the helpful friendship behavior you saw. It's important to give praise in the moment and to do it often. You might say:



“You're doing great sharing and turn taking with your brother.”

“I love how you're using your words to ask for a turn with that toy.”

“That was really nice of you to ask how your friend was doing when they were upset.”

“Thank you for being patient and waiting your turn to talk.”

“Great job being flexible and letting your friend choose what to play.”

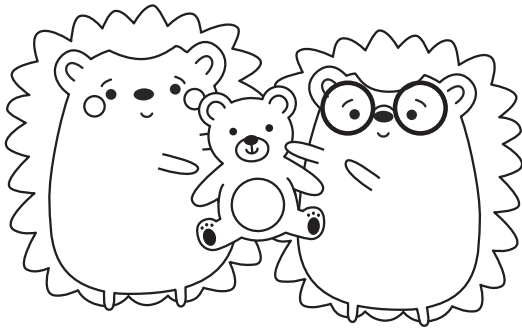
START WITH THIS →

- Talk with your child about why it is important to be a good friend. Use examples from their life at school and at home to help them learn that people use good friendship skills every day.
- When you see your child using helpful friendship skills, give them praise. Make sure to name the helpful friendship behavior when it happens and as often as it happens.

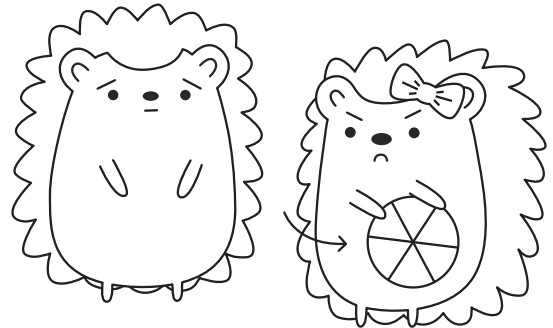
Being a Good Friend

♪ It's always good to be a good friend ♪
because being a good friend is great!

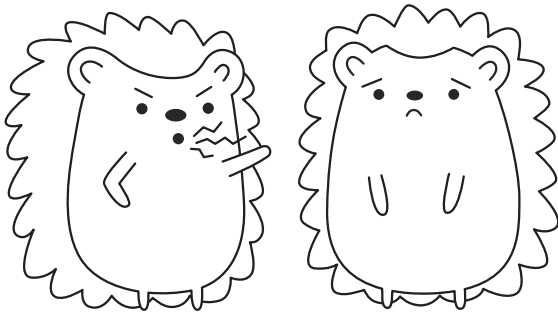
Below is a picture of different situations with our hedgehog friends interacting with each other using helpful or unhelpful friendship behaviors. Color the helpful friendship behaviors.



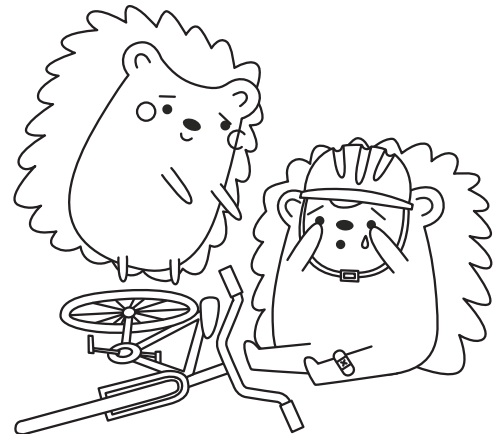
Sharing toys



Taking a toy

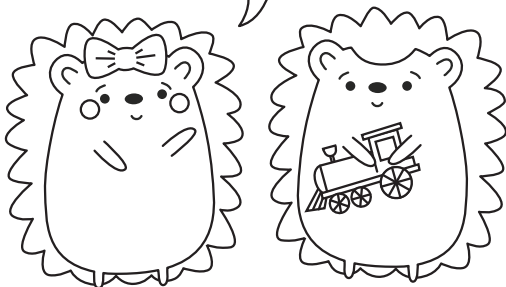


Yelling at a friend

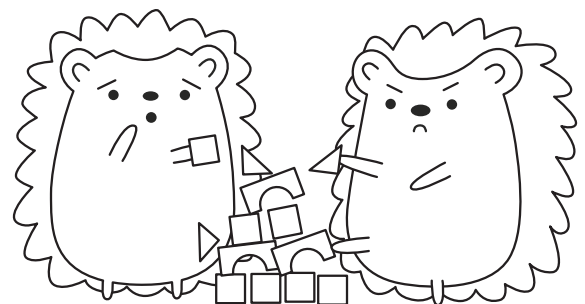


Helping someone

CAN I HAVE A TURN?



Using your words

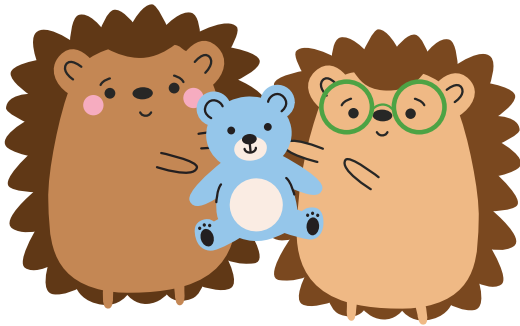


Knocking something over on purpose

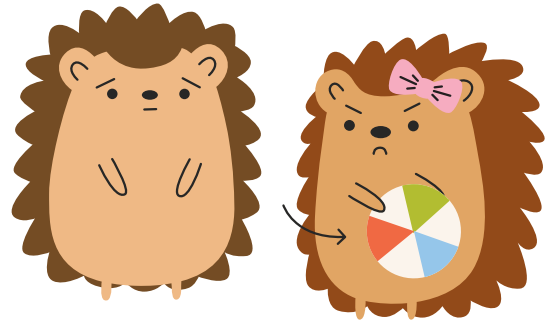
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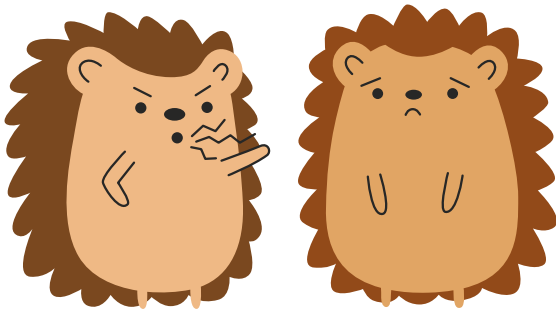
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Sharing toys



Taking a toy

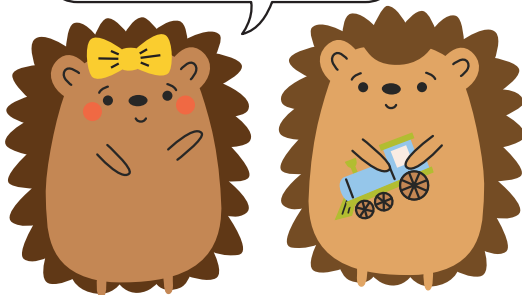


Yelling at a friend

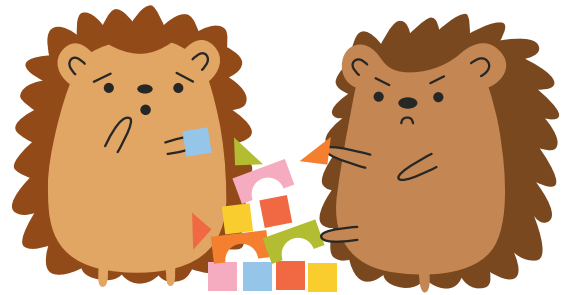


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Using your words



Knocking something over on purpose