

Promoting Positive Peer Social Interactions

HANDOUT

8



Teach peers positive social interactions during daily large group activities.

Circle time or story time usually provides good opportunities to take a few minutes to teach these skills. Skills are taught by:

- ✓ Explaining the skill
- ✓ Demonstrating the correct way to use it
- ✓ Demonstrating an incorrect way and letting the children figure out what step was missing
- ✓ Letting a child practice a skill with an adult
- ✓ Letting a child practice a skill with another child
- ✓ Providing positive feedback and attention on use of the skills

The target social skills are:

- ✓ Getting a friend's attention
- ✓ Sharing objects
- ✓ Asking peers to share objects
- ✓ Providing a play idea to a peer
- ✓ Saying something nice to a friend



Monitor playtime for naturally occurring positive peer social interactions.

Teachers should be actively moving around the classroom, interacting with children during play, and looking for children using the targeted social skills. Additionally, teachers should be ready to provide assistance to children as needed so they can interact successfully with their peers.



Provide cueing as needed by reminding children to:

- ✓ Play together
- ✓ Share with their friends
- ✓ Be persistent



Provide additional assistance to children as needed to ensure that peer social interactions are successful. For example:

- ✓ Modeling
- ✓ Specific verbal cues (e.g., *Remember to tap him on the shoulder*)
- ✓ Physical assistance



Provide positive attention to children who are using targeted social skills naturally with:

- ✓ Positive feedback and attention
- ✓ Superstar System