

## Friendships Make Your Child's Life Exciting



1. **Having friends is a way for your child to learn to respect others, and will give them someone to share their ideas, feelings, and experiences with.**
2. **It's important to teach your child that friendships don't always mean that everyone is getting along.** Sometimes friends are happy and agree on almost everything; other times they disagree and want nothing to do with each other.
3. **Since friendships will help your child to grow, having friends from a variety of backgrounds and groups will help your child to learn about different people.**
4. **Through play, children teach each other social skills and give each other a sense of belonging.**
5. **Keeping friends is often not easy.** Remember, teach your child that friends need space and time by themselves.
6. **The best way to make new friends and keep your old ones is to be a good listener, get along well with others, and be a friendly person.** Teach your child these important skills.
7. **Join clubs, and participate in inclusive recreation programs and playgroups.** Joining these kinds of programs can help teach your child leisure skills. They can also help your child build skills needed to make social connections, and how to develop and nurture friendships.
8. **Provide opportunities to support your child to be able to extend their friendships beyond the school day** through scheduled playing opportunities and social gatherings. Invite other children into your home and to join you and your child in community outings.
9. **Special recreation programs and health-condition specific summer camps** are places where children and youth with special needs can meet and make new friends.

**We're here to help.** To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

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