

Developing Friendships: First Grade

Playing with peers will help your child to:

- Connect, interact, and learn to cooperate with others
- Increase communication skills
- Develop empathy



Ideas to try with your child:

- Attend community activities where your child can interact with other children their own age:
 - Story time at your local library
 - Playing at the park
 - Community sports leagues, swimming lessons, gymnastics, and dance class.
- Schedule play dates with friends or neighbors.

If your child is struggling:

- Role-play ways to ask others to play so your child can practice before going to the park or school.
- Play board games with your child. Play fairly so he can both win and lose.
- Join in a game of tag with your child and another child to demonstrate cooperation.

Going further:

- Help your child to create a play date invitation for a friend.
- Watch the story *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson at <http://www.storylineonline.net/enemy-pie/> After the story, discuss things like: how did the main character's opinion of his 'enemy' change as he got to know him? Why do you think that is?

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Play more cooperatively with others." *Building Relationships, First Grade*, pg. 100