FRIENDSHIP GAME

LIFE SKILL
learning how to make and be a friend

Why learn to be a friend?
People in strong families usually have many friends who are important to them. Good friends share laughter and fun, celebrate important family events, and are willing to help or just listen when needed. This activity will help your family think about your friends and the roles they play in your family’s life.

What do we need?
paper and pens; scrapbook, autograph book, or other album with blank pages (optional)

How long will it take?
15 to 30 minutes

What do we do?
• Pass out paper and pens to each family member. If children are too young to write, pair them with an older family member. Have everyone write down the names of each family member, including their own.
• Under each person’s name, list the names of his or her friends, including close relatives. You may want to limit the length of the lists if time is limited.
• When the lists are finished, go around the table and have each family member read the list of friends under her own name. As names are mentioned, tell one or two things about the person that make him a good friend. Or give reasons that that particular friendship is valued. Sometimes family members do not “approve” of each other’s friends. Remember, the purpose of this activity is to share the positive qualities of your friends and not to criticize someone else’s.
• Discuss whether family members were able to accurately identify each other’s friends.

Option. Ask a family member to select a scrapbook, autograph book, or guest book. These can be obtained at variety stores, stationery stores, or card shops. Or make your own scrapbook with extra paper from your home or office.
• Encourage family members to write down friends' addresses and phone numbers on the first few pages.
• On the remaining pages, ask your friends to sign their names and share any of the following:
  —a memory of something you've done together
  —a verse, special quotation, or other saying
  —a note or message
• From time to time, when the entire family is together, take turns reading aloud from the book so everyone can enjoy what your friends have written.

What happened?

▼ What happened during this activity?
▼ How did you and other family members feel as you talked about your friends?

What did you learn?

▼ What did you learn about your friends?
▼ What did your family learn about your friends?
▼ What did you learn about other family members' friends?
▼ Did family members choose friends for different reasons?

Why was this activity important?

▼ Why is it important for family members to know each other's friends?
▼ Why is it important to think about friendship and what being a good friend means?

What's next?

▼ What did you learn in this activity that will help you be a better friend?
▼ What did you learn from this activity that will help you choose friends wisely?