

Letters & Literacy



Additional Literacy Experiences for
the Unit,
"Friendship Fun"



Important Information

The following experiences are designed to complement the Gee Whiz teaching unit, “Friendship Fun.” These experiences are not required! Instead, they are a tool you can use to integrate an exposure of letter names, letter sounds and creative writing into the curriculum IF you feel your children are ready. This website has great information on print and alphabet knowledge. There are four sections to explore: KNOW, SEE, DO, IMPROVE. Check it out: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/print-alphabet-knowledge>

Keep in mind that children develop at their own rates. Many four and even five-year-olds may not be ready to identify letters and this is OK. You need to think about each individual child and his/her level of development. These activities and experiences should only be used with those children who you feel are ready to explore letter concepts.

Additionally, to make sure that you are exposing children to letter names, letters sounds and writing in a meaningful way, this document provides suggested times when we feel it would be meaningful to do so.



Letter Exposure Activities for “Friendship Fun”

Activity Title	Page #	Letter(s) to Integrate	How?
Find Your Name Game	5	Letters associated with each child's name	During this experience, the children will play a game where they are given cards with their names printed on them and then they must each find another card that is hidden that has their name as well. Once these children find both cards with their names, take time to talk about the letters that make up each child's name as well as the sound the beginning letter makes. Now would also be a very appropriate time to talk about syllables. Help each child clap out the syllables in his/her name. Compare and contrast the children's names. Do they all have the same number of syllables? Who has the most? The least? The same? This is a great way to incorporate math into this literacy experience.
I Care!	6	C	During this Exploring Together experience, the children will explore talk about what it means to care about a friend. As part of this experience, with children who are ready, print the word <i>care</i> on a sheet of paper as the children watch. Talk about the letter C at the beginning of this word. Can the children hear the sound this letter makes? Do any of them have a name that begins with the letter C? Next, have the children work to dictate a list of ways they can show their friends they care. As they make suggestions, print their exact words on a sheet of paper and talk about letters, letter sounds, words and sentences in the process. Then, once the children finish dictating, provide them with crayons/markers they can use to illustrate the list before displaying.
Do You Need Help?	8	H	<p>During this Exploring Together experience, the children will learn more about helping friends. As part of this experience, with children who are ready, print the word <i>help</i> on a sheet of paper. Name each letter as you write it. What is the first letter in this word? Do any of the children have a name that also begins with the letter H? Next, introduce the chant, “Help.” Have the children clap to the beat as they recite the chant with you. Then, each time you have clean-up time during the day, have these children chant the rhyme with you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H.E.L.P</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H.E.L.P</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I'll help you and you'll help me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H.E.L.P</p> <p style="text-align: center;">That is how it's supposed to be.</p>

Letter Exposure Activities for “Friendship Fun”

Activity Title	Page #	Letter(s) to Integrate	How?
To Share or Not to Share	11	Many letters	During this experience, the children will practice discriminating between things that are OK to share (like a ball) and things that are not (like a toothbrush). As part of this activity (with more advanced children), make two charts ... one that contains a list of items the children believe are OK to share and the other that contains a list of items that they believe are not. As the children suggest each item, print the word on the corresponding sheet of paper. Note letter names, and sounds, as part of the process. See how many things the children can add to each chart. You might want to keep this experience going for several days. The children can also add illustrations beside the words they add, if desired. Display the charts for families to see during pick up and drop off.
Everyone is Included	12	I	During this Exploring Together experience, the children will discuss inclusion and how important it is for everyone to be included. As part of this experience, print the word <i>included</i> on a sheet of paper while the children watch. Talk about the letters that make up this word and then focus on the letter I at the beginning. If you feel your children are ready, you may want to mention that this letter is called a vowel. Do any of the children have this letter in their names? Next, challenge the children to “include” each other as they work together to try to figure out how to make a large letter I with their bodies on the floor. Give them plenty of time to figure this out on their own. As the children work together, you may want to record a short video to add to their portfolios and/or share with families.
I Am Respectful Crowns	15	R	During this experience, the children will be making crowns. As part of the activity, you will be printing the phrase, “I am respectful” on each child’s crown. This opens the door for you to talk about the letters, beginning sounds, words and sentences. After printing the entire phrase, focus on the word <i>respect</i> . Talk about the beginning letter in this word. Do any of the children have a name that begins with the letter R? Then, as part of this experience, have the children dictate ways they show respect to others for you to print on their crowns. This opens the door for you to discuss additional letters, letter sounds, words and sentences in a meaningful way.