

## Teacher Tips:

# Friendship

The first way young children make social connections is usually side by side. They may just watch each other or imitate each other. That's how friendship begins. It is important to remember that children have different temperaments. Some seem naturally sociable, while others seem to prefer spending more time alone or with family members.

Use the following suggestions to help children practice playing together and resolving conflicts that arise during play.

- A good time for teachers to facilitate social skills is when children are playing together and a conflict occurs.
- Teachers can use playtime as a way to help children who have less effective social skills to try out new ways of interacting.
- It is important to remember that social competence is defined differently in different cultures. It's key to be supportive and sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of the children and families served. Talk with families about how they handle social interactions and conflicts at home.
- During the preschool years, it is common to hear a child proclaim "You're not my friend anymore!" That's often just a way of saying, "I'm really angry that you won't do what I want you to do."
- Give children a chance to practice sharing and taking turns by playing Daniel's Tea Party game - <http://pbskids.org/daniel/games/tea-party/>.
- Show the video clip of Daniel Tiger's strategy song as a discussion starter. Let the children share examples of times they might sing the song.



♪ A friend just wants to play with you. ♪



Watch more videos and play games with Daniel Tiger by visiting [pbskids.org/daniel](http://pbskids.org/daniel)