How to Support Your Child with Friendship Skills

**Friendships help your child...**
- Learn social skills
- Learn and feel good about themselves
- Have supports in their lives

**Developing Your Child’s Friendship Skills**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Playmates</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a place in your house where your child can play with a friend.</td>
<td>Help your child choose interactive activities (not video games or TV).</td>
<td>Have several sources of playmates: school, team, church, scouts, neighborhood.</td>
<td>Set aside time each week for play dates.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Tips for Your Child When Joining a Group**

**When & Where**
- Children should try to join in when others are playing during lunchtime, or before or after school.
- Children shouldn't try to play with others when they are working or listening to the teacher.

**How**
- Children should watch the group and understand what they are doing and what the rules are to play.
- Children should congratulate the other kids who are playing.
- Children join a group by helping them play their game. Wait for a break to join.

**Being Turned Down**
- On average, children are told "no" 50% of the time when trying to join a group.
- If your child accepts being turnd down gracefully, they will more likely be allowed into the group next time.
- Being turned can be disappointing or confusing for your child. Help them come up with a plan if this occurs:
  - What could you tell yourself if this happens (ex: "That's alright, I'll try to play with them later.")?
  - What could you do next if this happens (ex: play a different game)?
- Successful group entry should only be done by the child. Attempts by parents to help can be unsuccessful.

Information adapted from: