### **Understanding Your Theme Unit**

The Friendship theme unit includes a variety of fun and engaging activities to use during circle, centers, independent work, and group activity times. The focus of this theme unit includes:

- Friendship-related activities, games, vocabulary words, and concepts
- · Art and cooking activities with a friendship theme
- · Center and independent work activities in math, reading, and writing
- Science inquiry
- · Social studies lessons
- · Life skills: cooperating in a group
- Identifying feelings
- Working with a partner

Use this theme as part of a comprehensive behavioral curriculum (The STAR Program). All students will benefit from direct instruction focused on teaching essential skills in receptive and expressive language, academics and social/play skills. The activities in the theme unit can assist instructors with generalizing and expanding skills students have learned in more structured teaching sessions. All activities provided throughout the theme unit address a wide-range of student skill levels.

## A Few Easy Steps for Successful Theme Unit Instruction



- 1. Follow the suggested *Monthly Calendar* for activities focusing on friendship-themed vocabulary and concepts.
- 2. Introduce the theme unit concepts during *Circle and Group Activities*. Using the lessons provided, teach students important vocabulary and concepts that will be used in centers and independent work.
- 3. **Centers and Independent Work** activities are provided for a wide range of student skill levels. Activities are a follow-up to the concepts, vocabulary, and ideas presented during circle and group activities. The independent work activities can also be used during group teaching times.
- 4. *Group Activities* incorporate art, cooking, games, life skills, science, and social studies. Activities introduce and practice the concepts taught throughout the theme unit.
- 5. **The Monthly Newsletter** guides parents through the current unit, with an option to include a personalized note from the instructor.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

#### Theme vocabulary:

- Friendship vocabulary
- Colors: Pink, Green, Purple, Red, Blue, Yellow
- Shapes: Oval, Triangle, Heart, Star, Circle, Diamond

#### **Friendship Concepts:**

- Empathy, Compassion, Emotions, Sharing
- · Letter matching and identification
- Phonics: beginning and short vowel sounds
- Theme vocabulary in words and sentences
- Theme comprehension
- Phonemics: word families
- Sight Words

#### Math:

- Counting and one-to-one correspondence
- Geometry
- Money
- Time
- Sorting and patterns
- Comparing and classifying
- Adding and subtracting
- Measurement

#### Writing:

- Coloring, cutting, gluing
- Tracing, copying, writing words and sentences
- Presentation of ideas in pictures and writing

#### Science:

Measuring, predicting, reporting

#### **Social Studies:**

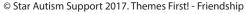
 Using kind language, identifying character traits, responding to conflicts

#### **Social Skills:**

 Turn-taking, waiting, sharing, asking questions, commenting, working in a group

#### Life Skills:

• Empathizing, cooperating, identifying feelings, playing fair



### **Utilizing Learning Objectives**

Each activity, lesson, worksheet, and task opens with a learning objective that clearly outlines the skills and concepts reinforced in that specific piece of material. All objectives work off of learner-based outcomes in regard to students' individual skill levels. Learning objectives can be used to reinforce state and district educational standards and individual IEP goals; they can also help maintain documentation of the skills and tasks students exercise and master during these activities.

### Circle

The circle activities and visuals include icons for calendar, songbooks, and friendship-themed activities.

It is important to have a structured circle routine. View the ideas and visuals on the "Routine Essentials: Circle - Morning" page of the STAR Media Center. Once the circle routine and visual supports are in place, add more fun to circle time by introducing new themes. Each theme unit includes circle song icons, books, and activities.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
CALENDAR DATE ICONS  Icons for each day of the week to identify the date. Includes repeating patterns. Contains 31 days so you can customize the unit to suit your specific time frame.	Friends, Balloon, Doll
SONGBOOK ICONS  Support student participation by providing song choice icons and visual supports for each song.	<ul><li>If You're Friendly and You Know It</li><li>My New Friend</li></ul>
CIRCLE ACTIVITIES  Use these activities to introduce the theme and teach key vocabulary and concepts.	<ul> <li>Bean Bag Hello Game</li> <li>Friendship Find</li> <li>Friendship Bingo</li> <li>Friendship Web</li> <li>Pass the Ice Cream</li> </ul>
<b>THEME-RELATED VIDEOS</b> Use the following videos during circle to introduce the concepts taught in the theme unit.	<ul> <li>See circle activities page for a link to videos.</li> <li>We recommend that you preview the YouTube videos prior to student viewing to ensure appropriate content as video links can break or change. Also be advised ads may appear within the videos.</li> </ul>
THEME VOCABULARY Introduce new vocabulary and concepts through written and visual supports.	
<b>Friends</b> : Friend, Friendship, Boy, Girl, Family, Pet, Dog, Cat, Brother, Sister	<b>Feelings</b> : Sorry, Happy, Sad, Mad, Scared, Sleepy, Surprised, Joy, Love, Respect
Activities and Toys: Play, Playground, Roller Skates, Hopscotch, Board Game, Toys, Building Blocks, Sandbox, Jump Rope, Doll, Balloons, Basketball, Baseball, Catch, Cars, Flower, Bracelet, Telephone, Birthday, Gift, Share,	Characteristics: Nice, Kind, Giving, Sweet, Old, New, Loyal, Mean, Good Listener, Poor Listener, Honest, Compassionate, Courageous, Fair, Responsible, Heart Colors: Blue, Green, Red, Pink, Purple, Yellow
Talk, Tag, Hug, Secret, Teamwork	<b>Shapes</b> : Oval, Triangle, Heart, Star, Circle, Diamond

### **Group Activities**

A variety of group activities are included that incorporate cooking, art, games, life skills, science, and social studies.

Art group activities include instructional videos for step-by-step guidance. View the videos below each art lesson on the "Group Activities" page of the STAR Media Center.

Small group activities are a great way to build a positive classroom climate and teach social skills. Providing structure during these activities will create clear expectations for students and promote independence. Refer to the Small Group Activity routine ideas located in the STAR Media Center for additional ideas.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPP	NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	
GAME: DO YOU WANT TO BE MY F (Matching game inspired by the classic Er		Do You Want to Be My Friend?
GAME: FISHING WITH FRIENDS  ("Fishing" motor skills game)		Fishing with Friends
GAME: FRIENDSHIP SORT (Classifying game using friendship images and concepts)		Friendship Sort
GAME: PATH TO FRIENDSHIP (Collaborative friendship board game)		Path to Friendship
ART: FRIENDSHIP BRACELET  (Art project in which students create their own beaded friendship bracelets)		Friendship Bracelet
ART: FRIENDSHIP QUILT (Collaborative art project in which studen	nts craft their own friendship quilt piece)	Friendship Quilt
ART: FRIENDSHIP TREE  (Art project in which students work together to create colloborative friendship trees)		Friendship Tree
ART: RAINBOW FISH (Art project in which students make an art project inspired by a friendship story)		Rainbow Fish
COOKING: BUDDY SNACK MIX (Students work together to make a snack	mix)	Buddy Snack Mix
COOKING: FRIENDSHIP COOKIE (Students follow a simple recipe to create	a smiley face cookie)	Friendship Cookie
COOKING: FRIENDSHIP RAINBOW (Students make a fruit snack modeled after a rainbow)		Friendship Rainbow
COOKING: FRIENDSHIP TOAST (Students assemble heart-shaped cinnamon toast)		Friendship Toast
SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES (Friendship-themed science inquiry and social studies lessons)		Lesson 1: Measuring Friends Lesson 2: A Good Friend Lesson 3: Kind Words Lesson 4: Are You Being a Good Friend?
LIFE SKILLS (Students learn skills to help them cooperate in a group)		Lesson 1: Playing Fair Lesson 2: Identifying Feelings Lesson 3: Teaching Empathy Lesson 4: Describing Feelings
THEME-RELATED BOOKS	<ol> <li>Crazy Hair Day by Barney Saltzberg</li> <li>Should I Share My Ice Cream? by Mo Willems</li> <li>Feelings by Aliki</li> <li>Friends by Rob Lewis</li> <li>A Rainbow of Friends by P.S. Hallinan</li> <li>Do You Want to Be My Friend? By Eric Carle</li> </ol>	

## **Centers and Independent Work**

File folder tasks, activities, and worksheets are included for math, reading, and writing at three different levels of difficulty.

Students benefit from structured centers and independent work time. Review the Centers and/or the Independent Work routine ideas and visuals in the STAR Media Center.

Activities for Centers and Independent Work follow a consistent format and address learning objectives/standards in reading, math, and writing. Each new theme will follow the same format, providing consistency of instruction for the student to build on previously learned skills. The following table is an overview of the format for each lesson.

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
READING Level 1: File Folder Tasks (FF) Level 2 & 3: File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS), and Books.  Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a finetip dry erase marker and eraser.	Level 1 FF 1.1 Toy Chest Colors FF 1.2 Playground Fun FF 1.3 Friendship Matching FF 1.4 Friendship Sorting 1	Readiness: Matching Colors Theme Vocabulary: Matching Theme Vocabulary: Matching Theme Comprehension: Sorting
	Level 2  FF 2.1 Roller Rink Fun Alphabet A-H FF 2.2 Roller Rink Fun Alphabet I-Q FF 2.3 Roller Rink Fun Alphabet R-Z WS 2.4 Friendship Vocabulary 1 WS 2.5 Friendship Sentences 1 Book 2.6 Friends FF 2.7 Friendship Sorting 2	Phonics: Letter Identification 1 Phonics: Letter Identification 2 Phonics: Letter Identification 3 Theme Vocabulary: Words Theme Vocabulary: Sentences Theme Comprehension: Book Theme Comprehension: Sorting
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Beginning Sounds 1 (p, f, b, h, c, s) WS 3.2 Beginning Sounds 2 (p, f, b, h, c, s) FF 3.3 House Rhymes WS 3.4 Friendship Vocabulary 2 WS 3.5 Friendship Sentences 2 WS 3.6 Friendship Sight Words Book 3.7 Yes or No? Book 3.8 Friends Like to	Phonics: Beginning Sounds 1 Phonics: Beginning Sounds 2 Phonemics: Rhyming Theme Vocabulary Words Theme Vocabulary Sentences Sight Words Theme Comprehension Book 1 Theme Comprehension Book 2
MATH  Level 1: File Folder Tasks (FF) Level 2 & 3: File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS), and Books.  Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a fine- tip dry erase marker and eraser.	Level 1  FF 1.1 Friendship Number Matching FF 1.2 Hopscotch Shape and Color Matching FF 1.3 Friendship Money 1 FF 1.4 Friendship Time 1 FF 1.5 Friendship Sorting 1 FF 1.6 Friendship Patterning 1	Counting and Matching Geometry Matching Money Matching Time Matching Sorting Pattern Matching
	Level 2 FF 2.1 Count on Being Happy FF 2.2 Count the Blocks WS 2.3 Comparing Friendly Numbers 1 WS 2.4 Friendship Shapes FF 2.5 Friendship Patterning 2 FF 2.6 Friendship Money 2 WS 2.7 Friendship Time 2 FF 2.8 Toy Store Map Measurement	Counting Objects to Five Counting Objects to Ten Comparing Numbers to Ten Geometry Patterns Money Matching Time Matching Classifying
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Count the Birthday Gifts WS 3.2 Comparing Friendly Numbers 2 WS 3.3 Friendship Addition and Subtraction FF 3.4 Friendship Patterning 3 WS 3.5 Spin and Graph FF 3.6 Friendship Money 3 WS 3.7 Friendship Time 3 WS 3.8 Friendship Measurement	Counting Objects to 30 Comparing Numbers to 30 Adding/Subtracting Pattern Matching Geometry Money Matching Time Matching Measuring

# **Centers and Independent Work**

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
WRITING Level 1, 2 & 3: Activities and Worksheets (WS) Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a fine tip dry erase marker and an eraser.	Level 1 WS 1.1 Friendly Scissors WS 1.2 Color the Friendship Pictures 1 WS 1.3 Friendship Shapes 1 WS 1.4 Glue the Swings on the Swing Set	Cutting and One-Step Actions Coloring within the Lines Tracing within the Lines Matching Shapes and Coloring within the Lines
	Level 2 WS 2.1 Color the Friendship Pictures 2 WS 2.2 Friendship Shapes 2 WS 2.3 Friendship Color by Number WS 2.4 Friendship Dot-to-Dot WS 2.5 Friendship Letters WS 2.6 Friendship Shapes 3	Tracing and Coloring Tracing Numbers and Coloring within the Lines Tracing Letters Matching Letters with Images
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Friendship Words 1 WS 3.2 Numbers and Number Words WS 3.3 Friendship Sentences WS 3.4 Friendship Words 2	Tracing, Copying, and Writing Vocabulary Words Tracing, Copying, and Writing Number Words Writing Theme-Related Sentences Presentation of Ideas in Print

