

Promote inclusion as everyone's responsibility.

Make respectful accommodations so that children can be successful participants.

A child who is successfully participating has a better chance of making a friend.

Evaluate your environment & how it can support friendships.

Have quiet places where children can be together to talk & play games.

Prepare adults to act as inclusion facilitators.

Teach facilitators to stand back & let children interact so friendships can develop naturally.

Help families support blossoming friendships.

Let parents know when children are forming friendships so they can support the friendships with play dates & party invitations.

Strengthen friendship skills of all children.

All children need to work on their friendship skills, not just children with disabilities.

Recruit participants with and without disabilities.

Children who have the chance to be with others who are different from them will grow up appreciating differences.

Determine roles that participants will play.

A peer tutor is a helping role with one child having a higher social status than the other; a peer companion relationship puts children on an equal footing.

Determine the objective of the activity.

Is the purpose skill development or socialization?

Structure activities to promote cooperative interactions.

Have children work together to complete a task, play a game, generate an idea.