

A LITTLE GUIDE FOR KIDS (AND GROWN-UPS)

Being a great friend

When a friend talks, plays, or moves a little differently.

Some kids use lots of words. Some use a few, or their hands, or a device, or a little extra time. Every single one wants the same thing you do: a friend. Here are easy ways to be a great one.

- › **Say hi like you would to anyone**
A friend is a friend. You don't need special words, just a smile.
- › **Give a little extra time**
If your friend is finding their words, wait and watch. They're worth the wait.
- › **Notice all the ways they talk**
A look, a point, a sign, a tablet, a sound. Those all count as talking.
- › **Guess kindly, then check**
Try "Do you want the red one?" and let them tell you yes or no.
- › **Find a way to include them**
Look for a way they can play, instead of a reason they can't.
- › **It's okay not to understand**
You can gently say "Can you show me?" That's better than pretending.
- › **Stick up for them**
If someone is being unkind, be the friend who says something.
- › **Just have fun together**
The best part of a friend was never how they talk. It's that they're yours.

Being a great friend isn't hard. It's mostly patience, kindness, and showing up. You've got this.