

Example Schedule: Embedded Friendship Opportunities

This document provides an example schedule with planned opportunities for children to engage in social opportunities. It is adapted from the schedule provided in the Instructionally Enhanced Pyramid Model: Implementation Guide.

Arrival

- Hold hands with a “buddy” to walk with from the bus to class.
- One child is assigned to be the “greeter” and greet children by name as they arrive.

Circle Time

- One child is selected to pass out the circle time props to each classmate. As the child progresses around the circle, they call each child by their name and say, “Here.” Each child then responds with, “Thanks (child’s name).” After children have a chance to use the circle time prop they will trade with a friend.
- Children are paired with a “buddy” to play with at choice time. The pair must decide together where they will play first.

Free Choice

- Children will play with their “buddy” (assigned or selected) for the first ten minutes of free choice time. If they stick with their buddy the whole time, provide additional encouragement and a high 5!
- Adults watch for friendly behaviors and provide behavior specific praise when appropriate.
- Set up the “buddy” table. Children must find a friend to play at the table to gain access to the high preference toys there.

Small Group

- Plan cooperative art projects: “Buddy Art.”
- Teach children to play board games.
- Put children in charge of different materials needed for the small group project (e.g., Tommy has the glue, Helen has the sequins, Haley has the paper). The children must use their peer’s name to request materials.
- Adults reinforce children for sharing.

Outside

- Transition to/from outside holding hands with a buddy.
- Have children push each other on a swing or have a child count “1...2...3...Go” for kids to go down the slide.
- Finish outside time with a buddy game (Buddy races, Duck Duck Goose, etc.).

Snack

- Have each child be in charge of different snack items (e.g., Joey has juice, Haley has crackers, Ben has cups). Children have to ask each other for the snack items they want.
- Adults reinforce children for sharing.

Story Time

- Select books with a friendship theme.

Goodbye Circles

- Compliment circles – children have a chance to give a friend a compliment while passing around the “compliment bear.”
- One child can pass out backpacks from the cubbies as children are about to leave.
- One child can say goodbye to each classmate.

Transitions

- During planning time, plan who to play with instead of what center to play in.
- Children can hold hands going from one activity to another.
- One child can give children a high-five as they come in from outside.
- During clean-up, adults watch for and reinforce children’s helping behavior.

Michigan’s MTSS Technical Assistance Center is funded by the Michigan Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.