

Ollie the Owl Learns About Friendship

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of friendship and how to be a good friend through the story of "Ollie the Owl and the Friendship Tale."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl and the Friendship Tale"
- The song "Ollie the Owl's Friendship Song"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1- puppets (owl, bear, rabbit, bee, beaver, squirrel)
- Activity 2- Friendship Bracelet Handout
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about friends and ask if they have any friends they like to play with.
- Introduce the concept of friendship and how friends can help us feel happy and supported.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - "Good morning, everyone! I'm so glad to see all of you today. Come join me in our circle—crisscross applesauce! Today, we're going to talk about *friendship*. Do any of you have a friend that you like to play with?"
 - Wait for the children to respond.
- **Discussion Starter**
 - "Wow, those sound like wonderful friends! Having friends is very important because friends help us feel happy, play with us, and make us feel good inside."
 - "Can you tell me how a friend has helped you before? Maybe they shared a toy with you or played with you when you felt sad."
(Allow a few children to share.)
 - "Thank you for sharing those beautiful stories! Friends help us, and we also help them. Let's see how Ollie the Owl learns to be a good friend in our story today!"

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story “Ollie the Owl and the Friendship Tale” aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions about what Ollie, Harriet, and Benny did together.
- Emphasize the ways they helped each other and how their friendship made them feel.

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. "As we read, I'll ask some questions so you can help Ollie discover what makes each family special."
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

2. Read the story with an emphasis on key moments:

While reading, pause during key moments to ask the following questions:.

- *How does Ollie feel at the beginning of the story?*
(Encourages students to identify emotions.)
- *What does Harriet the Hare say when she meets Ollie?*
(Focuses on kindness and inviting others.)
- *What fun things do Ollie and Harriet do together?*
(Checks for comprehension and detail.)
- *What does Ollie teach Harriet? What does Harriet teach Ollie?*
(Highlights cooperation and sharing skills.)
- *How does Ollie feel when he starts playing with Harriet?*
(Promotes emotional awareness.)
- *What does Benny the Bear ask when he sees Ollie and Harriet playing?*
(Focuses on inclusion and social interaction.)

- *How do Ollie and Harriet respond to Benny's request to join?*
(Emphasizes welcoming others.)
- *What special things does Benny teach his new friends?*
(Reinforces mutual learning in friendships.)
- *What do Harriet and Benny do when Ollie feels sad?*
(Encourages empathy and care.)
- *How does the story show that Ollie feels better because of his friends?*
(Helps students recognize the power of connection.)

Ollie the Owl and the Friendship Tale

In a forest green and bright,
Lived Ollie the Owl, a wonderful sight.
He had big, wise eyes and feathers so fine,
But sometimes he felt lonely, oh how he'd pine.

One day as the sun began to rise,
Ollie spotted someone with curious eyes.
It was Harriet the Hare, hopping with glee,
"Hello!" she called out, "Will you play with me?"

Ollie felt happy, he spread his wings wide,
"Yes, let's be friends!" he hooted with pride.
They played in the meadow, so full of cheer,
Laughing and learning, their worries disappeared.

Harriet showed Ollie how to hop high,
Ollie taught her to hoot at the sky.
They helped each other, every single day,
Through fun and games, and work and play.

Then one day, they met Benny the Bear,
With a smile so warm, and fur so fair.
"Hello friends," Benny said with a grin,
"Can I join your games, can I come in?"

Together they played, from morning to night,
Helping each other, it felt so right.
Benny showed them how to climb a tall tree,
Ollie and Harriet felt so free.

One sunny day, Ollie felt blue,
He didn't know what he wanted to do.
Harriet and Benny sat by his side,
"We're your friends, Ollie, there's no need to hide."

Through their friendship, Ollie could see,
How wonderful it was to just be.
They helped him smile when he was down,
Turned his frown right around.

They learned together, every day,

Through friendship, they found a way.
Ollie learned he could be strong,
With friends beside him, he belonged.

Harriet the Hare, so quick and bright,
Taught Ollie to jump with all his might.
Benny the Bear, so big and kind,
Showed Ollie the strength he could find.

In their friendship, Ollie found,
A special love, so safe and sound.
He learned about himself, it's true,
Through the love of friends, old and new.

So if you ever feel alone or blue,
Remember this story, and friends so true.
Help each other, have fun and play,
And learn about yourself every day.

Ollie, Harriet, and Benny, it's clear,
Found friendship's magic, year after year.
Together, they soared, hopped, and
climbed,
In a forest where true friendship shined.**

3. Post-Story Teacher Script

- "Wasn't that a wonderful story? Ollie, Harriet, and Benny showed us what it means to be good friends. Friends help each other, play together, and support one another when they're feeling sad."

4. Post-Story Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the story and connect it to their own experiences:

- *What makes a good friend? Can you name some qualities?*
(Helps children identify kind and helpful behaviors.)
- *Have you ever helped a friend who felt sad like Ollie? What did you do?*
(Encourages reflection and empathy.)
- *Why is it important to include others in play, like Ollie and Harriet did with Benny?*
(Promotes inclusion and community.)

- *What could you say to someone who looks lonely on the playground?
(Practices kind social language.)*
- *How can friends help each other learn new things, like in the story?
(Supports the idea of shared growth.)*
- *Have you ever made a new friend by saying “hello” or asking someone to play?
How did it feel?
(Connects the story to students’ real-life experiences.)*
- *What would you do if your friend was feeling left out or sad?
(Builds problem-solving and compassion.)*
- *What do you like to do most with your friends?
(Celebrates friendship in everyday life.)*
- *Why do you think Ollie said he felt like he belonged at the end of the story?
(Supports understanding of emotional safety and connection.)*
- *What lesson do you think Ollie learned about friendship? What did you learn?
(Wraps up with personal reflection and understanding.)*

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the “Ollie the Owl’s Friendship Song”
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a fun song about what Ollie learned. I’ll show you some hand actions to go with the song, and you can join in!”

“Ollie the Owl’s Friendship Song”

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the Owl flies so high
In the bright blue sky
With his friends by his side
They go for a fun ride

Flap arms

[Chorus]

Friends help and friends play
Learning lots every day
Through friendship we grow
Just like Ollie whoo-hoo-oh

Link arms together

[Verse 2]

Ollie shows us the way
To have fun and to play
With Harriet the Hare
Skipping here skipping there

Skip in place

[Chorus]

Friends help and friends play
Learning lots every day
Through friendship we grow
Just like Ollie whoo-hoo-oh

Link arms together

[Bridge]

Helping each other through
We learn something new
Friends share and they care
Everywhere everywhere

Place hand over heart

[Verse 3]

Benny the Bear joins in
With a happy big grin
Together we explore
And learn a little more

Big smile

"Great job, everyone! Singing together with friends is so much fun, just like Ollie, Harriet, and Benny had fun in the story. Now, let's do some activities about friendship."

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice showing what it means to be a good friend.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:

Activity 1: Animal Role-Play (15 minutes)



1. Introduce Activity

"Let's use these puppets to practice what it means to be a good friend. Here's Ollie the Owl, Harriet the Hare, and Benny the Bear."

Activity Instructions

For each role-play scenario, choose two students to come up and pretend to be one of the characters. Let the students act out one of the scenarios and how they would solve the problem.

1. **Explain the Role-Playing:**

"We're going to take turns with the puppets. Each puppet will act out a situation, like asking to join a game or helping a friend who feels sad."

2. **Model the First Scenario:**

"Watch how Ollie asks Harriet to play. 'Hi Harriet, can I play with you?' And Harriet says, 'Sure, Ollie! Let's play together.'"

3. **Encourage Participation:**

"Now it's your turn! Who would like to try asking a friend to play?"

(Let a few children take turns role-playing different friendship scenarios.)

- Ollie sees Harriet playing alone. He wants to join in.
- Benny notices Ollie looks sad. He checks in with him.
- Harriet has trouble reaching a toy. Ollie offers help.
- Benny feels left out because Ollie and Harriet started a game without him.
- Harriet and Ollie have a disagreement. They learn to say sorry.
- Benny finds a cool stick and wants to share.
- Ollie is nervous to try a new game. Harriet and Benny encourage him.
- Harriet is having a tough day. Ollie and Benny cheer her up.
- All three friends plan a game and take turns picking what to play.
- Ollie sees someone else feeling left out and invites them to play.

4. **Discussion:**

"Didn't they do a wonderful job? You all showed how to be kind and invite others to play—just like Ollie!"

Activity 2: Friendship Bracelets (15 minutes)



- **Introduce Activity**

"Now we're going to make something very special—friendship bracelets! You'll use the Friendship Bracelet handout to create a bracelet that you can give to a friend."

- **Activity Instructions**

Instructions for Craft Activity

1. **Distribute Materials:** Provide each child with the Friendship Bracelet handout

2. Explain the Craft:

"A friendship bracelet is a way to show someone that you care about them. You can choose colors that remind you of your friend or ones that make you happy."

- a. "First, cut out the bracelet on your Friendship Bracelet handout."
- b. "Next, decorate the bead shapes. You can color them and write kind words on the shapes."
- c. "Then, cut out your beads and glue them onto your bracelet."

(Hand out materials and encourage them to think about who they want to give their bracelet to..)

3. As They Work:

"While you're making your bracelets, think about how you can be a good friend. Maybe you can share your toys, help someone, or say something kind."

4. Sharing Time:

"When you're finished, you can show us your bracelet and tell us who it's for."

5. Discussion:

"Look at all these beautiful bracelets! You put so much thought into them—just like a good friend does."

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about friendship from Ollie, Harriet, and Benny.
- Ask a few children to share how they can be good friends to others.

Review and Reflection Teacher Script

1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:



"Let's all come back to the circle one more time. You all did an amazing job today learning about friendship! Can anyone tell me one way they can be a good friend?"

"Those are wonderful ideas! Remember, being a good friend means helping each other, sharing, and playing together—just like Ollie, Harriet, and Benny."

Closing

"I'm so proud of all of you. Let's always try to be kind to our friends and help them when they need us."

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- "Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home. It talks about what we learned today, so you can share it with your family."

(Hand out the parent letters.)

"Thank you for being such wonderful listeners and friends today! I can't wait to see you all next time."

- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, we learned about the importance of friendship through the story "Ollie the Owl and the Friendship Tale." This story teaches children how friends can help us feel happy and supported.

Here's what we learned:

- Friendship – Friends play, help, and support each other.
- Being a Good Friend – Show kindness, share, and support friends when they are feeling down.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making friendship bracelets. You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to show kindness and support to their friends.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Friendship Bracelet

