

# Promoting Peer Interactions

Tips and activity ideas to promote peer interactions with infants and toddlers.

Skills that are useful for interacting with peers and building social relationships include:

- Getting a friend's attention
- Sharing objects
- Asking peers to share objects
- Providing a play idea to a peer
- Saying something nice to a friend

Create a list of tasks typically done by adults during classroom routines but that are appropriate for children to complete for and with their peers. These might include things such as:

- Snack time: Children can work in pairs to put out napkins, cups, and plates as they set up snack together
- Arts and crafts time: Making an art collage—children can distribute art materials to their peers
- Music: Pairs of students can dance together during a music activity

Game Ideas:

## Play Magic Ball

This toddler-friendly, hot potato-style game is a great way to teach kids how to share. As you sing the words to the song, kids pass the ball from one to the next. "The magic ball goes round and round, round and round, round and round. The Magic ball goes round and round, Then. It. Stops." Ask children "who has the ball?"

## Play Copy Cat

One child stands in front of group and wears cat ears. They do an action or teacher whispers and action and the rest of the kids "copy" the cat.

