



# Helping Your Child Choose Good Friends



How can you help your child choose good friends that will encourage him/her do what's right?

**First, help him/her see how necessary it is to choose good friends.** Use these simple illustrations.



- Lay out newspaper on a table and use it as a “tablecloth” for an art project. Draw pictures on copy or construction paper. When finished, ask kids to look at their arms and see if any of the ink from the newspaper rubbed off on them. **The ink from the newspaper rubbed off on you because you were in close contact with it. How can other people rub off on us?** We can pick up their habits; we can start saying some of the same words they do; we can pick up their attitudes – good or bad, etc. **The paper was rubbing off on us, even though we didn’t realize it. We must choose friends carefully because they will rub off on us – we may pick up their attitudes or words.** Good friends can help us do what is right or they can influence us to do wrong things.
- Run a three-legged race to talk about the importance of choosing friends who also want to do what is right. Ask each one to find a partner (close in size, if possible) and link arms. Before the signal to “go,” tell each person where to run (whisper in their ear and tell them opposite directions). Yell “go” and watch them struggle. **Why was it hard to reach your finish line?** Then ask them to link arms and run again, but this time with the same destination. **It will be easier for you to do what’s right if you link up with others who also want to do what is right.**

**Second, teach them to be a good friend.**

- Brainstorm ways that good friends can help one another to choose the right way. Pair up kids and ask each pair to make a list. When finished, ask them to share their list with the rest of the family. If they need help, remind them to remember ways that their friends have helped them.





- Share some Bible verses instructing us on how to be a good friend: Romans 12:10, Romans 15:7, Romans 15:14, Galatians 5:13, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:25, 32, Philippians 2:3, Colossians 3:9, 13.



As your child gets older and begins choosing their own friends, invite them to your home. Get to know your child's friends and their parents. Pray for your child's friends. The friends that your child chooses may be one of the most important factors in their decision to do what's right and follow God. If their friends want to do what is right, they probably will also.

