

# Friends Like YOU Friends Like ME



## Best Practices in Promoting Friendship Development for Students with ASD

Lesley Craig-Unkefer (Impact Newsletter)

Friendships are among the most intimate and important relationships in our lives. They affect all areas of a person's well-being. For students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), development of friendships is important and can be a challenge.

<http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/193/over13.html>

## Beyond the Crayon

The website promotes authentic inclusion in schools and communities.

[www.beyondthecrayon.com](http://www.beyondthecrayon.com)

## Children's Friendship Training

Fred D. Frankel and Robert J. Myatt Publisher: Routledge ISBN: 1583913084

This empirically validated treatment integrates parents into the therapy process to ensure generalization to school and home. Step-by-step interventions are provided to help children develop the skills to initiate mutually satisfying social interactions with their peers. Clinical and empirical rationales, illustrative case examples and parent handouts that educate parents and give specific guidelines for homework assignments are presented for each treatment module.

## Dr. Paula Kluth website

This website is dedicated to promoting inclusive schooling and exploring positive ways of supporting students with autism and other disabilities. Dr. Kluth's work involves collaborating with schools to create environments, lessons, and experiences that are inclusive, respectful, and accessible for all learners.

[www.paulakluth.com](http://www.paulakluth.com)

## FRIENDS WHO CARE curriculum (Easter Seals; Friendly's)

Designed to help children better understand what it means and how it feels to be a young person with a disability. This educational program gives students the opportunity to learn what is involved when someone has a disability and how they adapt to live life, go to school, or work as independently as possible. The goals of the program are to encourage typically developing children to accept their peers with disabilities as people first and to find ways to include everyone in school and after-school activities.

[www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl\\_friendswhocare\\_downloads](http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_friendswhocare_downloads)

## Growing up Together

Autism Society of America; Indiana Resource Center for Autism; Easter Seals Crossroads

A pamphlet that teaches children that they can have fun with friends who have an autism spectrum disorder.

[http://www.bridges4kids.org/pdf/Growing\\_Up\\_Booklet.pdf](http://www.bridges4kids.org/pdf/Growing_Up_Booklet.pdf)

## I'm Tyler (don't be surprised) video

A short introduction to the concept of ability awareness for teachers, administrators, youth leaders, and others.

[www.imtyler.org](http://www.imtyler.org)

## The Including Samuel Project

The including Samuel project is built on Dan Habib's documentary film about his son, Samuel. The Project aims to build more inclusive schools and communities through curriculum, training, and outreach.

[www.includingsamuel.com](http://www.includingsamuel.com)



## Intricate Minds

Candid interviews designed to promote positive interactions between classmates and reduce harassment and bullying. Through interviews with students who have Asperger Syndrome (AS), the videos offer an inside look at how children with AS act, think and feel – and how they're routinely treated. The students talk about their strengths as well as their challenges and describe how important is it to them to be treated with respect. A goal is that viewing this video will encourage classmates to be less likely to ignore or harass students with ASD – and be more willing to treat them as equals. One video is directed to elementary school students and the other is designed for students in high school and middle school. It may be used as a staff development tool.

[www.coultervideo.com/intminds.htm](http://www.coultervideo.com/intminds.htm)

## Kids Included Together (KIT)

Specializes in providing best practices training for community-based organizations committed to including children with and without disabilities into their recreational, child development and youth development programs.

[www.kitonline.org](http://www.kitonline.org)

## School Community Tool Kit

Autism Speaks

A support for the general education and administrative school staff who interact with students with autism in various capacities. The tool kit provides valuable information and resources that can be employed by special education and administrative staff in their efforts to plan for and support students in general education environments and involvement in the school community as a whole.

[http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family\\_services/school\\_kit.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/school_kit.php)

## The Socially Included Child: A Parent's Guide to Successful Playdates, Recreation, and Family Events for Children with Autism

Laurie LeComer Publisher: Berkley Trade ISBN: 0425229653

A step-by-step guide for socializing children on the autism spectrum.

## Straight AAA's All About Autism: Educating School-Age Children about their Peers with Autism

Autism Alliance of Metrowest, Inc.

Student video program that educates the typical child about autism. It is specifically designed for mainstream kindergarten through fourth grade students. The 15 minute video educates typical children about their classmates, neighbors and friends who have autism.

<http://www.autismalliance.org/video.htm>

## Teaching Tolerance Disability Awareness: We're In It Together

Differently-abled students put on a play and learn about acceptance.

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/disability-awareness-were-it-together>

## What Is Friendship?: Games and Activities to Help Children to Understand Friendship

Pamela Day Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers ISBN: 1849050481

This program contains detailed instructions and reproducible handouts for teaching children about friendship. The book combines group activities, individual work, homework exercises and games, and may be especially useful for groups containing children with developmental and social difficulties, such as ADHD and autism.

## You're Going to Love This Kid!

Paula Kluth Publisher: Paul H Brookes Publishing Company ISBN: 59857079X

Guide to understanding students with autism and including them fully in the classroom. Includes specific ideas for enhancing literacy; planning challenging, multidimensional lessons; supporting student behavior; connecting, communicating, and collaborating; fostering friendships; and adapting the physical environment.



**Children's  
Specialized Hospital**

An RWJBarnabas Health facility

**KOHL'S**  
Cares

Through a partnership with Kohl's Cares, Children's Specialized Hospital is improving access to care for children with special healthcare needs.

**1-888-CHILDRENS**  
[www.childrens-specialized.org](http://www.childrens-specialized.org)

