



Teacher Guide

My Friend Kevin

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Using The Series In Your Classroom

As a teacher, I understand how difficult it is to fit additional teaching moments into an already busy day. Here are a few ideas on how to incorporate The My Friend Series into your classroom.

***Remember this book does not have to be read in order and each page does not have to be read. Read the situations that relate to your classroom or that you want to discuss.**

- If you are a teacher that works with exceptional children make sure to introduce these books at the start of the school year. This will help to promote understanding and foster positive peers relationships with your students from the beginning.
- You may also introduce these books as the situation presents itself during the school year. Such as with students that have transferred, students with new individual education plans, students that are being served under section 504, or students that share similar characteristics of students with emotional disabilities.
- Use similar situations from the book during those teachable moments throughout the day and school year. Refer back to the story and discuss how the characters in the book acted and reacted and how this integrates into your classroom.
- Use the book during whole group lessons or part or a small group reading lesson.
- When teaching social skills or classroom rules in both whole group and small group sessions, refer back to the books to encourage students to discuss challenging behaviors or feelings

Extension Discussion Topics

Scenario 1

- Discuss similarities of students in your classroom. Examples, same hair color, book bag, shirts, shoes, smiles, favorite toys, foods, etc. Use these similarities to build connections.

Scenario 2

- If this is a situation that occurs in your classroom, discuss with the students how they are to react if this happens. Also talk about how to help a friend that is angry or upset.
- Talk about what it feels like when you are upset or angry. What does your body do? How can you prevent this from happening before you get upset? What are some strategies that you can use to calm down or to feel better?

Scenario 3

- Take this time to discuss or revisit what the hands on or touching policy is in your classroom. Talk with the students about how this applies to the situation in this scenario.
- Talk with the students about using their words or communicating in an effective manner. This can help in future scenarios as well.
- Speak with the students about sharing and when this is appropriate in your classroom.

Scenario 4

- If this is a situation that happens in your classroom, discuss what your policy is. You may want to talk about how the response may look different for each student.

- Speak to the children about how each student is different and we all require a variety of different teaching strategies to be successful in the classroom. Give some examples.

Scenario 5

- Ask the students if they have ever felt like they did not want to do something. Or if they were asked to do something they do not like. What did they do in these situations? What is an appropriate response?
- Discuss with the students how this behavior will be handled in your classroom. Remind them that this may look different for each student. Give some examples if necessary.

Scenario 6

- Ask students if they have ever felt happy about something and then became disappointed or upset. Give an example, such as getting your favorite ice cream, then having it fall on the floor...or feeling happy about plans that you have and then they are canceled. Speak to the students about how this felt and how they reacted to the situation. Make connections to situations that may have occurred in your classroom.
- Speak with students about how they can be a good friend to others and help their friend if they are feeling bad. Have students give examples of when they have been a good friend. Give the students a chance to give examples of how they would be in the classroom as well.

Scenario 7

- If this is a situation that occurs in your classroom, take time to discuss with students what the expectations are during this time. Let them know what they should be doing and how they can help.
- Talk to students about how we all have bad days. Ask students what they do when they are having a bad day. How would they help others? What would they do if they were having a bad day at school?
- Make a connection to yourself as an educator. Let them know that you also have bad days and share with them how you feel and what you do to cheer yourself up. Share with them how you help others.

Scenario 8

- Unfortunately this is situation that may occur in your classroom or in the school at some point. If this is the case, explain to students that hitting others or throwing objects is not an appropriate way to handle your feelings. Discuss what will happen in these situations and what the other student's expectations are during this time.
- Talk with students about how they can help a friend that is feeling angry or upset and when to tell if it is not an appropriate time to help.
- Let them know they can tell an adult (teacher or parent) if they feel uncomfortable with another student's actions.

Scenario 9

- Take this time to discuss that everyone learns differently and we should be respectful of that. Give examples of different learning styles and strategies that are used. Make connections to different ways students learn in your classroom.
- Speak with the students about social skills groups that may happen in your classroom. Make connections to fun activities that you have shared and subjects you have discussed.
- Discuss with the students that they can always speak to someone if they are upset or angry. Make them aware of their resources such as school counselors or social workers that you may have in your building.

Scenario 10

- This is the perfect page to help continue a discussion about acceptance and inclusion of everyone. Discuss how we all have similarities and differences and how to celebrate those and learn from each other.
- At this time ask if there are any questions about situations or characteristics that were talked about in the book.
- Ask what connections the students made to their lives or classroom environment.
- Task the students with finding one way for each of them to be kind to someone else everyday. Discuss examples and what they may look like.

Thank you for helping to spread awareness and promote acceptance inclusion of all students by sharing a book from The My Friend Series.

I hope that this teacher guide has been useful. For more information about other books in the series please visit www.themyfriendseries.com

If you like our product we would love to hear how you shared it with your class and others. Please leave any feedback or pictures on The My Friend Series Facebook page or leave a review through one of the following outlets

Facebook, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Teachers Pay Teachers, Google.

Any questions, comments, or concerns? Please feel free to email me, Eve Lawrence
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