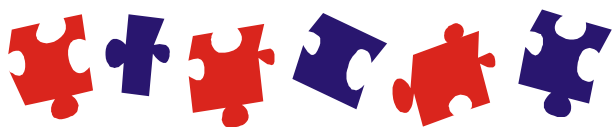
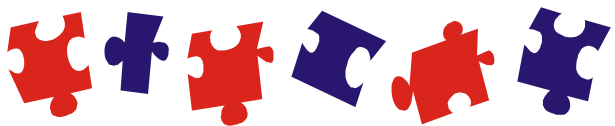


HOW IS MY PRESCHOOLER LEARNING TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS?

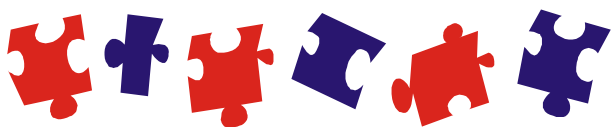


Making and keeping friends is an important challenge for preschoolers. The social skills they learn today will be used throughout life.

Many preschoolers prefer to play with other children, rather than alone. We encourage cooperative play by allowing children lots of chances to choose playmates and decide together how they will play. It is more fun to play doctor if you have a patient. With the teacher's help, they have to figure out how to give everyone a turn and a fair share.

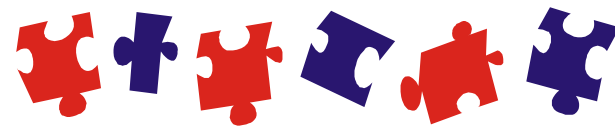


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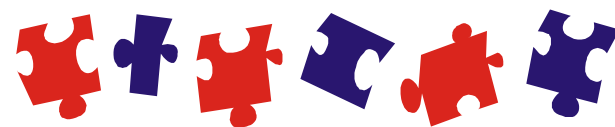


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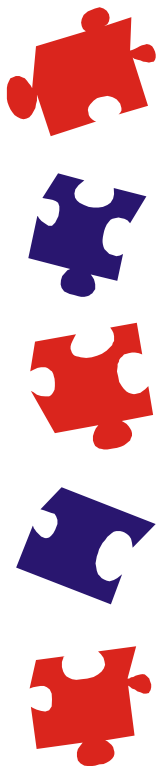
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When conflicts come up, the teachers encourage the children to come up with solutions. The teacher might say, “Hmm, there is only one green crayon and two children who want to use it. What can we do?”

We try to engage children in cooperative games more than competitive ones. They are much too young to worry about winning and losing, so we play games in which everyone contributes.

We encourage children to identify the feelings of others by pointing out how they have hurt another child and how they might fix things to make them better. A teacher might say, “Katie said she’s very angry. Remember when you felt angry because Derek broke your toy? What do you think you can do to help Katie rebuild the tower you knocked over?” Helping children learn empathy gives them the opportunity to right the wrong.

We encourage children to help others. We might make cards for a sick teacher or child, take water to the workers outside or collect trash from the neighbor’s yard. We want children to experience how good it feels to just be a friend!

Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

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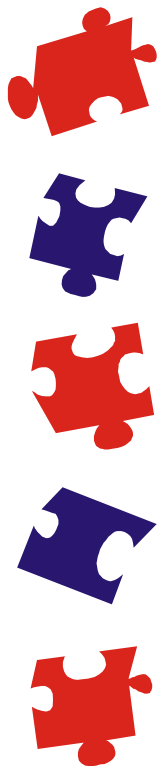
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 25-06

July, 1999

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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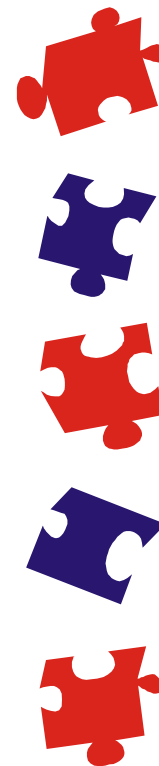
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