



A Story of Friendship

During a story time, consider guiding your children to create an original friendship story.

Prepare

Ask students about friends. What do friends do together? What do friends like to share? And other related questions.

Let students know you would like to create a new story with them about friendship and need their help to make it up.

Procedure

Begin with "Once upon a time..." or "One day, not too long ago..."

As you continue, stop regularly and encourage students to share ideas about

- 1) Who the characters are
- 2) What the characters want to do together
- 3) The troubles the characters have trying to achieve their desire
- 4) How the characters solve their troubles.

Ask plenty of questions, try ideas out and change anything the students would like to alter. Give it a dramatic flair and the students will enjoy joining in.

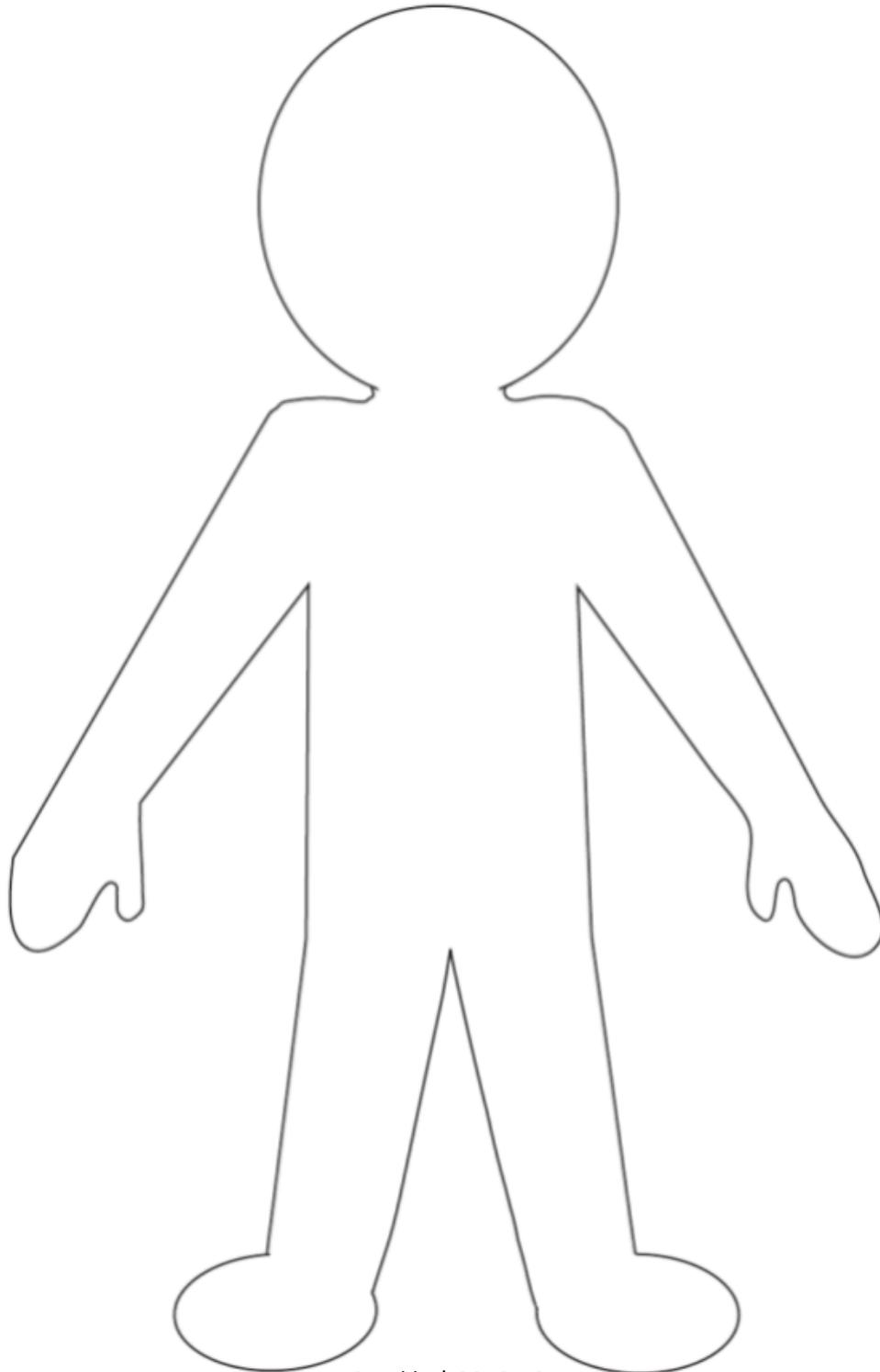




Draw You

Copy and distribute this page to students.

Draw yourself as you wish to be!





Find Someone Who...

This simple activity helps students understand that they might have something in common with every one of their classmates. They are more alike than different!

Purpose

Students find and gather with classmates that are similar based on particular criteria.

Procedure

Everyone works together

- 1) Create a list on the board or chart paper of the many ways we can be similar with others. Hair color, eye color, clothes, height, favorite game, food, hobby, movie, place to visit.
- 2) Ask students to raise their hands if they meet one specific criteria. For instance, all children with brown eyes.
- 3) Those children then form a group together on the floor or at a table.
- 4) Other eye colors are called out with the same instructions.
- 5) At the end, all students should be in a group.
- 6) Explain that eye color makes the children in each group the same, but they are different because there are other things that they do not share.
- 7) Everyone gathers back together to begin again with a new focus.

Variation: When children gather in their next group, ask if everyone from their first group is in the new group. The answer will probably be no, thus showing how they can be both the same and different.

Students make choices on their own

- 1) Using a similar list as the one above, pick one criteria and ask students to 'Find someone who has the same...'
- 2) Students walk about the room finding one or more partners who are similar to them.
- 3) At the end, all students should be in a group.
- 4) Ask students how they found their partner.
- 5) Everyone gathers back together to begin again with a new focus.

Play With Shadows and Puppets



Shadows and puppets are an important part of the SPARKLE play. Investigate the properties of shadows.

Materials

- Colored paper
- Scissors, Hole punch, Tape
- Pencil or craft stick
- Source of light (flashlight, projector, lamp with the shade removed, etc)
- White sheet



Shadows on the Wall

1. In a darkened room, shine a light on the wall.
2. Put your hand in front of the light to create a shadow on the wall.
3. Hold up your first two fingers to make a bunny.
4. Snap your thumb together with your fingers to make a crocodile.
5. Have students describe or say what the object is.
6. Move objects closer to the light and farther away. How does the distance from the light change the shape of the shadow?

Shadows on a Screen

1. Hang a white sheet over a table, in a doorway or from the ceiling.
2. Shine a light toward the sheet.
3. One person stands in between the light and sheet. The others sit on the opposite side of the sheet.
4. Move closer to the light and farther away. How does the distance from the light change the shape of the shadow?

Simple Shadow Puppets

1. Cut shapes, figures or characters out of the paper.
2. Allow the child to hole punch dots throughout the shapes. The holes will create a really neat effect when the light is shown on the shadow puppet figures.
3. Tape the shapes to a pencil or craft stick.
4. Shine the flash light on the shapes. Explore what happens when the shadow puppet moves closer and further from the light source.
5. Place the puppets behind the screen and experiment with what happens.

A Shadow Play

1. Older children can put on a shadow play.
2. Using the shadow puppets, guide students to make up a story about the characters and objects.

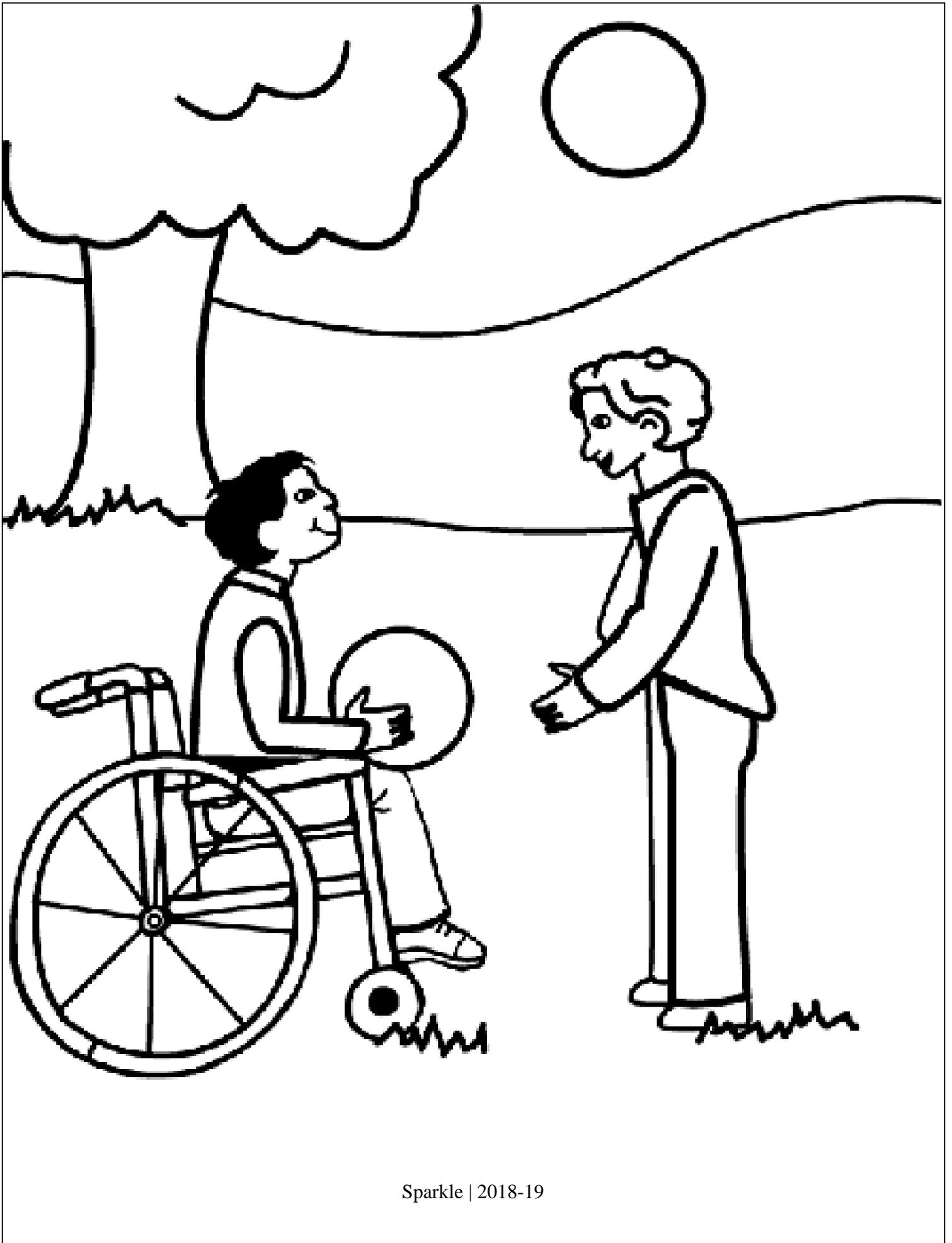


Friends Together, Friends Apart: Coloring

Have a discussion about the best ways to treat other people. Show students the two pictures below. Ask them to describe what is happening in each picture. Who is being kind? How do you know? Who is being hurtful? How do you know? Which is the better way to make a friend? Why?

Finally, copy the friendship picture on the second page and have students color it. Or guide students to draw their own picture of how to make friends with other people.







No Matter How You Look

Students develop sensitivity to individual differences as they compare similarities and discover differences in living things.

Making Butterflies: Preparation

Search for photos of butterflies in magazines, books and on the Internet. Display images in class. Discuss the similarities and differences observed in the images.

Materials

- White drawing paper
- Colored construction paper
- Paint, colored pencils or crayons
- If painting, water in containers, paper towels

Procedure

- Observe the unique shapes, colors, sizes and forms of various butterflies.
- Draw or paint one butterfly on a sheet of white drawing paper, coloring in the lines and unique design of your butterfly.
- Mount all of your butterflies to one wall.
- Observe all the butterflies. Which are similar? Which are different? What makes them the same as or different from each other?

What's Special about you and me?: Discussion

What would the world be like if we all looked the same? Imagine if we all lived in similar houses. Would you get lost going home? Our differences make us special and interesting. Exploring similarities and differences in things around you can be fun. Identifying and noting a unique quality helps you develop respect for differences.

Procedure

- Find a partner.
- Carefully look at each other. What do you see in your partner that is similar to and different from yourself? Share some ideas.
- What is one positive thing about your partner that is very special? Share some ideas.