

Figuring Out Friendships

NJ 2020 PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION ALIGNMENT:

2.1.5.SSH.4 – Describe how families can share common values, offer emotional support, and set boundaries and limits.

2.1.5.SSH.5 – Explain the importance of communication with family members, caregivers, and other trusted adults about a variety of topics.

2.1.5.SSH.6 – Describe the characteristics of healthy versus unhealthy relationships among friends and with family members.

2.3.5.PS.6 - Identify strategies a person could use to call attention to or leave an uncomfortable or dangerous situation, including bullying, teasing, teen dating violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual abuse.

TARGET GRADE: Grade 4 **TIME:** 45 Minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

“Healthy and Unhealthy Friendships Quiz” – one per student

- “Healthy and Unhealthy Friendships – Answer Key” –one for teacher
- “Trusted Adults” – one per student
- “Circles of Trusts – one per student
- Newsprint/Board and markers/chalk
- Markers/chalk
- “Positive and Negative Influences on Relationships” – one per student

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe at least 3 healthy and 3 unhealthy characteristics of relationships. [Knowledge]
2. Compare at least 2 positive and 2 negative ways friends and peers can influence relationships. [Knowledge]
3. Identify at least two trusted adults they would talk to about a relationship. [Knowledge]

PROCEDURE

STEP 1: Tell students that today you are going to talk about healthy and unhealthy aspects of relationships and who they can talk to about them. **Ask students, “What do you think of when I say the word ‘relationship?’” If students respond that it means dating or romance, ask “Does a relationship always have to mean two people dating?” (No). “What are some different kinds of relationships that people can have?” (Possible answers include: friendship, romantic, relationship between family members or between a child and an adult such as a parent, teacher, coach, doctor, etc.).**

(3 minutes)

STEP 2: Hand out the Healthy and Unhealthy Relationship Quiz and ask students to pair up with someone and complete it together. Then have the pairs discuss those that they might not agree on.

Bring students back together as a large group. Go over the quiz by asking for volunteers to give the correct answer and to explain their reasons for their answers. If there are disagreements or misunderstandings, provide explanations for correct answers included in the answer key.

(15 minutes)

STEP 3: Then say, “Now that we know some traits of healthy and unhealthy relationships, let’s think about ways friends and peers can influence a relationship in positive and negative ways.” Draw a T-chart on the board and label the right side “Positive Influences on Relationships” and label the left side “Negative Influences on Relationships.”

Ask students to share some examples of each type of influence, using possible answers Below:

Say, “What are some examples of things that friends might do or say that can help a friendship in a positive way? That keep it healthy?”

Note to the Teacher: Some possible responses are: They keep your secret; they help you learn a new game; they don’t get upset with you if you cannot do things that they can do; they include you in games and other activities; they stay with you when they are sad; they listen to your ideas even if they are different from their own; they take turns in games or deciding what to do; they are honest with you; they care about your feelings, etc.

Then say, “What are some examples of things that friends and peers might do or say that can influence a relationship in a negative way? That make it unhealthy?”

Note to the Teacher: Some possible responses are: They ignore your feelings if you are sad or upset; They jump in front of you in line; They take things from you without asking; They don’t invite you to play when a group is together; They hurt your feelings and do not apologize; They tease you even though you ask them not to; They stand by while you are being bullied and do not do anything or tell anyone; They talk about you behind your back; They lie to you; They pressure you to do things you do not want to do, etc.).

(10 minutes)

STEP 4: Tell students, “It can sometimes be hard to know if you are in a healthy or unhealthy relationship. It can be confusing. As we just talked about, even people in healthy, good relationships argue and disagree. Also, they can hurt each other’s feelings without meaning to.”

Explain that you’re going to talk a bit about family relationships. Ask students to name some things that make a family and brainstorm the list on the board. Examples may include: families can make you feel safe, families are people that love each other, and families often share the same culture, faith, or points of view.

Say, “All families are different, but one role that families play is to set boundaries and limits on how the people in that family behave. For example, setting a bedtime or curfew, deciding when you can have sweets or certain foods, or even somethings who you’re able to spend time with. This can sometimes cause arguments in families, but it’s often intended to help make sure you’re going up safe and healthy. However, if a person was ever hurt by a family member, if a family member did something or touched them inappropriately, or didn’t provide something they really needed, it’s important to always talk to a trusted adult. This is true of family members, friends, and even people you may be dating or may think of as more than friends. It’s important to remember that sometimes people you trust can do things that make you uncomfortable or can even be

dangerous.”

Ask students, “What can you do if you are having a problem or trouble with a relationship?” Ask for student responses. These may include: Tell the other person how you feel; end the relationship; talk with someone about it. After collecting some responses, tell students you want to focus on talking with someone about it.

Note to the Teacher: If students don’t come up with this idea on their own, suggest it to them and then begin the follow-up discussion below.

(7 minutes)

STEP 5: Tell students that there are many different people they can talk with if they are having a problem in a friendship or other relationship. Sometimes people talk with other friends or classmates, but sometimes it can be really helpful to talk with a trusted adult. Pass out the “Trusted Adult” handout. Read and review it with students, then ask students to think of a few adults in their life who they have gone to with a question or a problem or who they can imagine going to with a problem in the future. Divide the board/newsprint into three categories: Family, adult neighbors and friends, and Adult helpers in the school or community. **Ask students, “What types of people could possibly be trusted adults in your life?”** As students brainstorm suggestions, record their answers under the appropriate columns.

Note to the Teacher: Possible answers may include: Under “Family” – parents or guardians, grandparents, older siblings or cousins aunts and uncles; under “Adult neighbors and friends” – family friends, next door neighbor, parent of a friend; under “Adult helpers in the school or community” – teachers, principals, school nurses, police officers, doctors, clergy. Tell students to remember that the most important thing is always to go to an adult who makes them feel safe and comfortable; someone who is trustworthy. If a person they trust does something to make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, there are always other trusted adults they can go to.

(8 minutes)

STEP 6: Pass out the “Circles of Trust” worksheet. Explain to students that the purpose of this activity is to show that they are surrounded by adults who care about them and who can help them to solve a problem that may be too big to solve on their own. These questions or concerns you’d like to talk about could be related to relationships, your health or growing older, or when something in the world seems unfair or hard to understand. Tell students that the center circle is labeled “Me.” **Say, “Around you, you have your family, and each family is unique.”**

Give students 3 minutes to write the names of the people in their family they can talk with or go to if they are having a problem in a friendship or relationship, or some other problem.

Explain that the next circle is “Adult Neighbors and Friends.” Ask students to write the names of trusted adults that would fall into this category that you could talk to about a problem, for example a long time neighbor who may often babysit you or a parent’s best friend.

Explain that the final circle is labeled “Adult Helpers in the School and Community.” These are the people who surround you when you are away from home. Write the names of people in school and the community who they could ask to discuss a relationship issue or some other problem.

On the bottom of the handout, have students fill out the following statement:

“If I wanted to talk with someone about a friendship or other relationship problem I was having, the two people from my circles of trust I would most likely go to first are:”

As a Home-School Connection Activity, recommend that students share the “Trusted Adult” worksheet with a trusted family member if they feel comfortable and make changes or additions to it together with that trusted adult.

(10 minutes)

Note to the Teacher: Encourage students to share the “Circles of Trust” worksheet with a family member but tell them that this is not a requirement. It is possible that a student does not have a trusted adult in their home or family.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES AT CONCLUSION OF LESSON:

Learning objective one will be measured through student responses to the Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships Quiz.

Learning objective two will be assessed through the Positive and Negative influences on relationships brainstorm in Step 3.

Learning objective three will be measured through student completion of the Circles of Trust Home-School Connection Activity.

HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION ACTIVITY:

Share “Circles of Trust” worksheet with trusted adults as described above.

TRUSTED ADULTS

Who is a trusted adult? A trusted adult is someone you can talk with about anything; someone you feel happy being around; someone who is a good listener; or someone who has helped you before.

What kinds of things can you tell a trusted adult about? Anything you want to; things that make you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused; a problem you are having including a problem in a friendship or other relationship that is a problem. A trusted adult will try to help you no matter what the problem is.

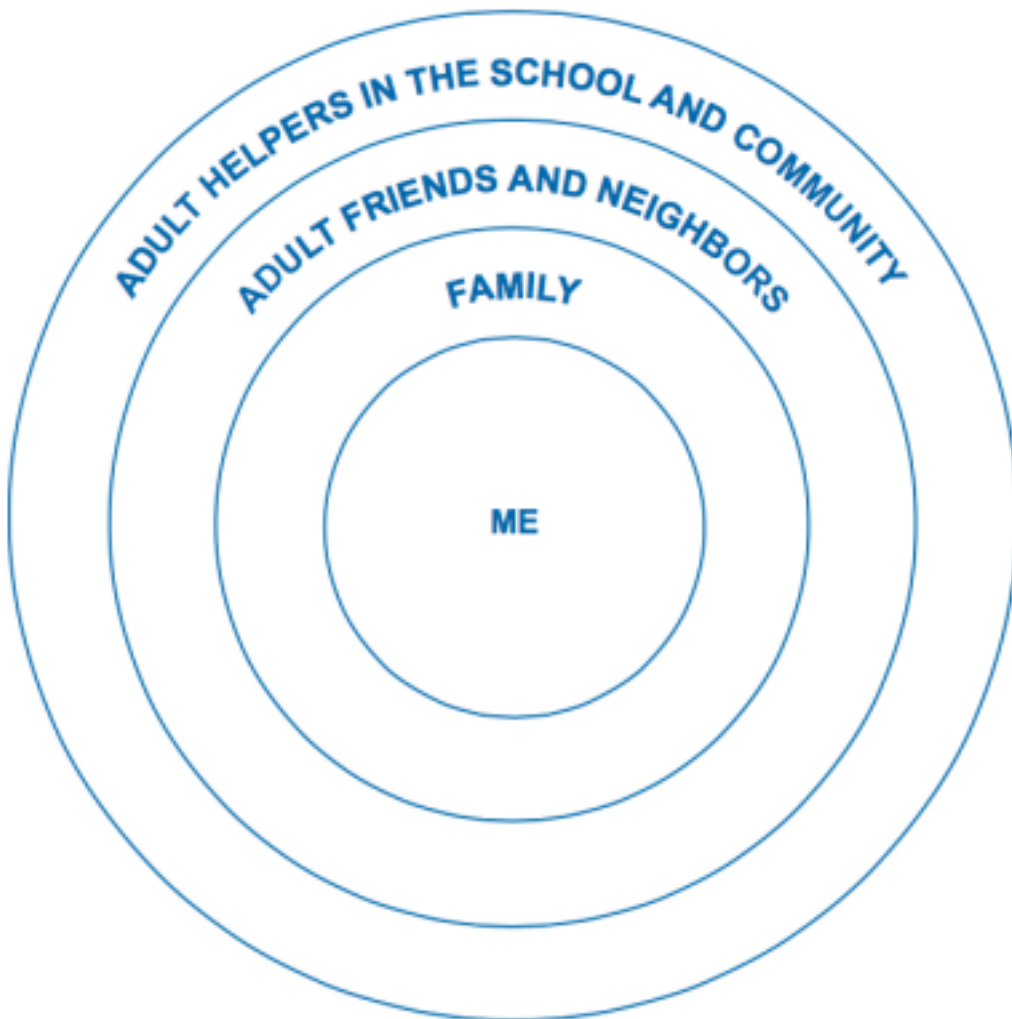
What would a trusted adult do if you told them that something bad or dangerous had happened to you or you were worried that something might happen to you? A trusted adult would try to help you solve the problem, be understanding, get help, and work hard to keep you safer.

Do I only need one trusted adult in my life? Some people have one person who they talk with about any issue or problem they are facing. Some people have different trusted adults they talk to depending on what they want to talk about. It is good to be able to identify who you would talk to in different situations.

Circles of Trust Worksheet

Name: _____

Directions: In each circle surrounding "Me," write the names of the trusted adults who you could go to about a friendship or relationship problem, or some other problem.



If I wanted to talk with someone about a friendship or other relationship problem I was having, the two people from my circles of trust I would most likely go to first are:

Positive and Negative Influences on Relationships

Worksheet

Name: _____

Things that friends and peers might do or say that can influence a relationship in a positive or healthy way:

Things that friends and peers might do or say that can influence a relationship in a negative or unhealthy way:

True or False

Quiz

HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP QUIZ

True or False: *In a healthy relationship friends, family members, or romantic partners....*

1. _____ Put pressure on each other to do something they may not want to do.
2. _____ Interested in how the other person is feeling, share personal information and trust each other.
3. _____ Do what the other person wants so they won't get mad at them.
4. _____ Don't get insulted or take it seriously when the other person teases them (like calling them names like stupid or lazy or swearing at them).
5. _____ Always think the same way and never argue.
6. _____ Do what the other person wants to do even if they don't want to or don't think it's a good idea.
7. _____ Support and encourage one another, and stand up for each other when they are being teased or bullied.

True or False

Answer Key

HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY FRIENDSHIP QUIZ

1. **TRUE.** People in healthy relationships don't insist that the other person do what they want to do. Putting pressure on someone to do something is not a sign of respect or friendship.
2. **TRUE.** People in healthy relationships often share personal concerns, stories, and experiences with each other that they wouldn't share with other people who may not be close friends or who they just don't know very well. They should be able to have the expectation that the other person will keep that personal information private and not tell anyone, unless they feel that keeping the secret can be harmful or dangerous to their friend, in which case they may tell a responsible adult.
3. **FALSE.** Healthy relationships are equal relationships, meaning both people get to have a say in what they do together. If one person gets angry because the other won't do what they want, that is not respectful and is not an equal relationship. It's okay to be annoyed with someone who doesn't want to do what you want to do, but that doesn't mean the other person has to give in if they feel strongly about it.
4. **FALSE.** People in healthy relationships should never call other people names, or tease one another with words that can be hurtful. Healthy joking around doesn't include insults, put downs or threats.
5. **FALSE.** Disagreements are fine and perfectly healthy. It would be more unhealthy if there were never any disagreements because that might suggest that one person is getting their way all the time and the other person is giving in all the time. People in healthy relationships discuss their viewpoints and feelings together to reach a solution.
6. **FALSE.** Just like it is not okay to pressure someone into doing something they don't want to do, it is not healthy to do what another person wants if you don't want to. It is okay to compromise sometimes but if something just sounds like a really bad (or dangerous, or wrong, or just not at all interesting) idea, you shouldn't do it.
7. **TRUE.** It can be really difficult for someone, even a good friend, to stick up for someone who is being teased or bullied because they are afraid that they may then be bullied, too. When friends stick up for each other, however, they are less likely to be bullied. If it is impossible to stick up for them because it doesn't feel safe, it is important to find an adult to tell who can intervene. Helping a friend when they are in trouble is very important to a healthy relationship.