

Building a Friendship with your Little

Key Points:

- ❑ Relationships have ups and downs
- ❑ Relationships take time
- ❑ Relationships don't happen by chance



Getting started in building a friendship with a child

- ❑ Learn 5 facts about your Little and refer back to them in your next conversation.
- ❑ Some children may be shyer than others so their inability to communicate is not a reflection of your abilities. If you experience this at the beginning, be prepared with an activity that will take the tension off and does not require your Little to create many verbal responses.
- ❑ Tell about yourself and be prepared with something interesting about you. This will model to the child that it is all right to talk about themselves.
- ❑ Avoid using "shoulds" and learn alternative ways to suggest constructive behavior, "how about if..."
- ❑ Always end the day on a positive note, find something they have done well, and let them know when you will be returning.
- ❑ Be patient!