



WEEK FOUR

EXODUS 17:1-7

Moses obeys God by striking a rock with his staff, and God provides water for all the people.

SAY
THIS

WHO'S GOT IT?
GOD'S GOT IT.



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EXODUS 17:1-7

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SAY
THIS

WHO'S GOT IT?
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DO
THIS



BATH TIME

While bathing your child, add several floating objects to the bath water. Tell your child, "Get the [object name]." When he/she gets the object, say, "Yay! You got it!" Talk with your child about how God's got everything! There is nothing too big for God to take care of it. God's got it!"

DO
THIS



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REMEMBER THIS

"God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9, NLT

BASIC
TRUTH

GOD LOVES ME.

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HOW TO COACH FRIENDSHIP IN THE PRESCHOOL YEARS

By Deborah Springer

Making friends and keeping them are important life skills. Just like learning to walk, talk, self-feed, and potty-train, there are steps that babies, toddlers, and preschoolers will master as they learn the skill of making and keeping friends. It takes a long time to learn these skills. I mean think about it , we're still developing them well into adulthood.

So, what do these skills look like as a preschooler develops into a social being? Here are some thoughts to consider:

When it comes to your baby, you are your baby's first friend. Babies relate by mirroring facial expressions. Babies reach with their hands and feet to seek your attention. Responding to those cues lets your baby know that he's doing all the right things as a friend-seeker.

Toddlers learn to be a friend through imitation, too. Your toddler will begin to imitate her friends through what's called parallel play. Because sharing is not yet perfected (or even considered!), she'll play alongside—or parallel to—others.

Language is a powerful coaching technique as you explain in simple and clear words how a friend is feeling. Saying, "Timothy is sad because you grabbed his truck," or, "Sarah wants to sit beside you to play," helps make your

toddler become more empathetic and aware of the feelings of their friends. Keep in mind the one-friend-at-a-time rule for your one-year-old.

Preschoolers move into that magical time when friendships and attachments are blossoming, and your child will begin to see life from the perspective of others. Parallel play grows into cooperative play to collaborative play. Your role as a friendship coach at this age is to listen, observe, and intervene when necessary. Be sure to provide a variety of play experiences and give your preschooler words to use when problem-solving with a friend.

As you "friendship coach" your child in these early phases, one of the best ways to teach is through stories. Tap into the many children's books that portray healthy friendships. Read age-appropriate books with your baby, toddler, or preschooler like *The Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobeland or *The Elephant and Piggie* series by Mo Willems. Books are a great way to enjoy learning more about friendship as you cuddle and share a quiet time together—or with friends.

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