

Tackle social problems before they affect school performance

Learning how to deal with “friends” who turn out not to be friends is a tough lesson. And it’s one that can distract your child from learning and affect his performance in school.

Talk to your child about the qualities that make someone a true friend and suggest he avoid classmates who seem:

- Selfish. Does the person seem to think and talk mostly about himself? Is he using your child in order to get something?
- Phony. Does the person say one thing and then do another?
- Dishonest. Someone who is a friend only because he wants to cheat on a test is not really a friend at all.
- Unreliable. Did he say he’d walk home with your child after school, but then head off to someone else’s house instead?

Remind your child that he is worthy of real friends and should stay clear of those who are not.

Reprinted with permission from the March 2019 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2019 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. Source: R.M. Kidder, *Good Kids, Tough Choices: How Parents Can Help Their Children Do the Right Thing*, Jossey-Bass.