



## Social skills – what kids say

These skills are in order of importance according to some of the kids we worked with, and why they thought they were important.

### Respect

- ★ "We chose respect because most skills fit under respect and it also means responsible and honest." [Mikee, Pip and Harrison](#)
- ★ "If you respect others they will respect you."
- ★ "Don't expect respect if you don't respect others."

### Accepting differences

- ★ "If you accept others differences they are more likely to accept yours."
- ★ "Treat everyone the same wherever they come from."
- ★ "It is important to accept others' differences in our community so there are no fights about race, gender or anything else."
- ★ "If we don't accept differences we won't be able to show understanding of people who are different to us." [Jack](#)
- ★ "Not accepting differences means you miss out on making more friends."

### Being a friend

- ★ "Because it's important to have friends."
- ★ "Friends are always there for you and everyone needs friends in life." [Natasha, Emma, Isiah](#)
- ★ "You need to be a good friend to keep your friends."

### Cooperation

- ★ "When you work together things are easier to do."
- ★ "If everyone cooperates everyone will get along."
- ★ "Try to find something you can agree on and work together."

### Good manners

- ★ "Using good manners is showing respect for yourself and others."
- ★ "If you use good manners, other people will respect you and want to be your friend. If you don't have good manners then people might not acknowledge you." [Rachel, Kate, Henry](#)
- ★ "Good manners mean you are included."

### Sharing

- ★ "If you share, then others will share with you. But you don't have to let someone take something that is really special to you."
- ★ "Everyone needs to learn to share so that we can have peace wherever we are."
- ★ "Share to be nice."

### Helping others

- ★ "If you help others they will help you."
- ★ "Helping people in need shows that you care."

### **Listening**

- ★ "If you are actively listening you are being friendly and respectful."
- ★ "Listening to others ideas can help you and the other person."

### **Patience**

- ★ "We need to be patient or we won't listen to friends, will be bad mannered, and may miss out on some really good things."

### **Participation**

- ★ "If everyone is participating no one gets left out."
- ★ "Taking turns, not being exclusive so that someone isn't left out."
- ★ "Having a go helps you to believe in yourself."

### **Positive communication**

- ★ "It's a great way to meet friends and solve problems."
- ★ "If you speak nicely to people they will listen."
- ★ "Look for good things to say, not put downs."

### **Resolving conflict.**

- ★ "If you can't resolve a problem then you will always have a grudge against someone."

### **Honesty**

- ★ "No one likes to be lied to. Honesty between friends is most important or else how can you trust each other and be real friends."
- ★ "Be honest and truthful and you will have more friends." [Nilofar](#), [Ceinwyn](#), [Brandon](#)

Some other kids listed skills in a different order of importance to them. You can see that the skills for being a friend, accepting each others' differences and helping others are of most importance to them.

### **Being a friend**

- ★ "Everyone deserves a friend who will stay by them and help them through tough and unpleasant times." [Brianna](#), [Eva](#) and [Millie](#)

### **Accepting differences**

- "Everyone is different and no one can help the way they look or where they're from, so everyone needs to accept that and not make anyone feel bad." [Brianna](#), [Eva](#) and [Millie](#)

### **Helping others**

- ★ "Helping others is a great way to make friends." [Tommy M](#), [Georgia](#), [Jemimah](#)

### **Cooperation**

- ★ "People can feel sad and left out if you don't cooperate." [Molly](#), [Tahlia](#), [Micki](#)

### **Good manners**

- ★ "Using good manners is important because if you act 'like an idiot' you will embarrass yourself and the people with you or around you." [Dom](#), [Thomas](#), [Matthew](#)
- ★ "If you don't use good manners you can't expect people to treat you with respect." [Dylan](#), [Emily](#), [Bradley](#)

### **Listening**

- ★ "If you don't listen to others they will not want to talk with you." **Dom, Thomas, Matthew**

### **Praising others**

- ★ "Praising others helps them to feel good and try harder, especially if they're a bit shy."

### **Patience**

- ★ "Everyone deserves a turn and everyone has the right to be heard. If that right is taken away they can feel left out." **Molly , Tahlia, Micki**

### **Sharing**

- ★ "Sharing helps you make new friends." **Callan, Dakota, Adriana**

### **Participation**

- ★ "If you participate and have a go, even if you are a bit scared about it, you will be glad in the end and probably will have had fun." **Blake, Abigail, Tommy B**

### **Staying on task**

- ★ "So you finish your work and don't distract others." **Laura, Johan, Kahlia**

Do you agree with what these kids said?

I wonder which skill you would choose as the most important?