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, Isaiah
★ "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."

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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?