



OAR Releases New Friendship Tip Sheets

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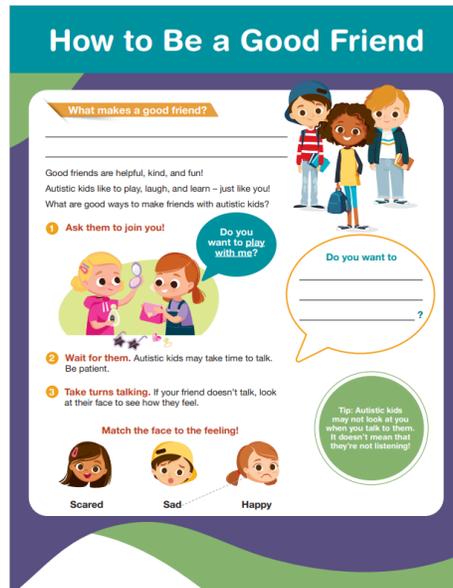
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ARLINGTON, VA – Everyone likes to have friends. For autistic kids, making friends often is not easy. Conversely for their typical peers, getting to know autistic kids can be hard too. In an effort to reduce barriers to friendship between typical kids and their autistic peers, OAR just released a series of one-page Friendship Tip Sheets geared towards helping non-autistic kids be understanding, supportive friends to their autistic peers. The Tip Sheets, released just in time for OAR's 19th birthday, are new additions to the highly successful *Kit for Kids* peer education program.

The Tip Sheets are available for students in four different grade ranges: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8, to account for variances in social development and language comprehension. Available now on [OAR's website](#), the Tip Sheets use engaging visuals, activities, and reflection questions to capture children's attention and promote discussion. They cover some of the communication barriers and sensory differences that can cause misunderstandings between autistic and non-autistic kids and provide clear, actionable steps that focus on what autistic individuals want their peers to know. Ideally, the information on the Tip Sheets will help typical kids better understand the autistic people in their lives and make them feel more comfortable and supported.

These new resources complement and expand upon the information in the existing *Kit for Kids* materials. OAR's *Kit for Kids* is a set of peer education materials that teaches elementary and middle school students about their peers with autism. Its goal is to promote more inclusive classrooms where students with autism are respected and valued, leading to better outcomes (e.g. decreased incidences of bullying) for everyone. The *Kit for Kids* has already been accessed by more than 135,000 students across the United States. The Friendship Tip Sheets, along with the other *Kit for Kids* materials, aims to increase autism acceptance by encouraging kids to enthusiastically embrace their friends' differences in day-to-day life.

OAR encourages teachers to incorporate the Tip Sheets into their lessons on autism acceptance, reading along with students or assigning them as classwork. Whether used in coordination with the other *Kit for Kids* materials or simply as a conversation starter, the Tip Sheets serve as an especially effective tool for encouraging autism acceptance.



OAR extends its gratitude to the community of educators, researchers, parents, and autistic self-advocates who contributed to the writing and review process. The *Kit for Kids* Friendship Tip Sheets are available for download [here](#), and in [hard copy](#) at a later date. If you have any questions or feedback about OAR’s Friendship Tip Sheet, or if you are interested in placing a bulk order, please contact OAR at 703-243-3466, or programs@researchautism.org.

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