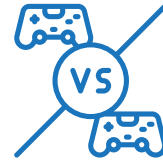


The Friendship Game

Every time we play a game with our friends, we are really playing two games at the same time. We are playing the board game or card game or multi-player game:



And, we are playing the **FRIENDSHIP GAME.**

When you play video games or other games with your friends, winning and losing is often just chance or good luck. You might get lucky and pick the highest card or by chance, find something that you need to do well in a video game. It's just luck, or chance.

When you are playing games with your friends there are 4 ways that the game can go.

1. **Win** the game and **win** the friendship game.
2. **Win** the game and **lose** the friendship game.
3. **Lose** the game and **win** the friendship game.
4. **Lose** the game and **lose** the friendship game.

What do you think it means to win or lose the friendship game?

It is important for all of us to learn from winning and from losing. No one can win every game. It's OK to lose because it happens to everyone.

Even when you lose, you can still win the **FRIENDSHIP GAME.**



Using The Friendship Game Social Story

This is a one page social story that is meant to be used to support the child who finds it difficult to win, or lose, with grace. It is a simply written, visual representation that helps to explain friendship as being more important than winning or losing. This social story should be used as a prompt for further conversation. It is best used with a child who has moved past basic game playing skills such as turn taking, and are now engaging in games that involve rules as well as the concepts of cooperation and competition.

Use this story when...

- Your child gloats and/or brags about winning during or after game play.
- Your child refuses to continue playing a game when they aren't winning.
- Your child avoids playing, or refuses to play games that they feel they may be unable to win.
- Your child is unable or unwilling to congratulate another player when they win.
- Your child laughs or makes unkind comments when another player isn't doing well (e.g, has to move back a space, loses a turn, fails at an attempt during game play, etc.)
- Your child's behaviour deters friends or family from playing games with them.

How to Read a Social Script...

Any style of social story, whether it's a script, or in book form, is best introduced at a time when your child is in a calm and ready mood. Time of day, environment and mood should always be considered when it comes time to read the story or script.

Once you have identified an opportune time to introduce the story or script you can simply explain to your child that you have something you'd like to read with them that you feel may be helpful to both of you. Remember that these social stories and scripts are meant to be read and talked about many times over.

After reading the story or script be sure to express to your child how helpful it has been to read with them. Say, "I found this very helpful. It has helped me to understand that even when I am losing a game, I can still be a winner by being a good friend."

Always try to remember that telling a social story under the wrong conditions is pointless and stressful to the child. WHEN you choose to read a social story or script is just as important as the story or script itself.