

## Focused Instructional Strategy: Pair and Share (Reading a story example)

### Step 1: Prepare for the activity:

- Select one or more books (e.g., books about friendship, loyalty, getting along with others).  
For example:
  - Soul Friends by Mayra Porrata
  - Fox Makes Friends by Adam Relf
  - How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
  - The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
  - The Selfish Crocodile by Faustin Charles and Michael Terry
  - That's What a Friend Is by P.K. Hallinan
  - We Are Best Friends by Alik
  - My Friend is Sad by Mo Willems
  - All Kinds of Friends, even green! By Norma Simon
- Consider what children will hold or interact with while the story is being read (e.g., own copies of the book, puppets, clipboards with paper, felt board characters).
- Print out or post the “think, pair, share” process so children have a concrete reminder.

**Step 2: Introduce the book and/read aloud a portion of the book.** The book can be read a small group of children (e.g., 3 or 4), or to a whole group of children.

**Step 3: Ask children a question about the story.** The question should be related to the broad topic of what you are teaching, friends and friendship in this example (e.g., ask, “What does it mean to be a friend?”). After asking the question, pause, and then encourage children to think about their ideas.

### Step 4: Pair children with a partner/peer to discuss their ideas. B

Be sure to consider what can you do to make sure each child has a partner and what do you do if a child doesn't talk or have adequate communication skills.

**Step 5: Ask pairs to share what they discussed.** Be sure to consider what and how much you facilitate the sharing back, and how you use children's answers as teaching opportunities. Use this visual of “think, pair, and share,” as needed/desired.

