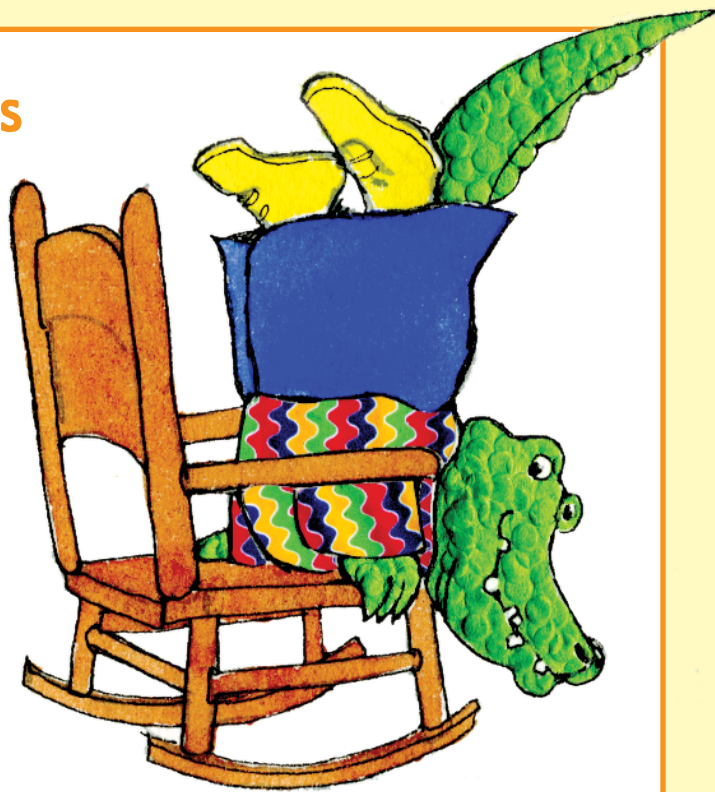


Activities

- 1. Being friendly.** Read *Hands Off, Harry!* early in the school year and discuss empathy. What makes a good classmate? What are friendly things to do? What are unfriendly things to do? Create a poster listing ideas, leaving room to add more over time. Have children decorate the poster, and display it prominently.
- 2. Cameras rolling!** Think of a common social problem experienced in your classroom and enlist actors to role-play the scenario (or use hand puppets!). Invite audience members to suggest what the actors could say or do at different moments in the “show.”
- 3. Whose shoes?** Talk with students about what it means to “walk a mile in someone else’s shoes.” Ask, for example, how they would have felt if they were Benjamin when Harry caused him to spill paint all over his favorite shirt. Ask children to think about themselves in the shoes of one of the Kindergators, and have them draw or paint pictures to represent this. Help write captions (“In Nigel’s shoes, I would have felt angry when Harry tackled me and broke my glasses”), and put the pictures on display.
- 4. Friendly Circle.** Designate a space and time for your own version of Friendly Circle, and hold an initial group discussion about how Friendly Circle will help the class work together better. Then, when a problem arises, gather the group to talk about the problem and ask for possible solutions, encouraging children to share their feelings and ideas.
- 5. Playing detective.** Ask children how they know what people are feeling, and discuss different ways to play detective about someone’s mood. Have volunteers demonstrate body language and facial expressions that might go along with certain emotions.



- 6. What do you do with your hands?** Talk about the three uses for hands mentioned in the book: When do you shake a hand? When do you hold a hand? How can you lend a hand? As a class, brainstorm other positive uses for hands. Ask each student to illustrate a hand use, then add captions and make the pictures into a book to be kept in your classroom. Students can “raise a hand” to vote for a title!
- 7. Dear Harry.** As a group or individually, write a letter to Harry. What would children say to him about his behavior? What would they say to him about how he changed? How can he continue to remember to respect personal space?
- 8. Thumbs up/thumbs down.** At the end of each day, gather the class in your own version of Friendly Circle. Ask children to think about the most memorable thing that happened to them or that they did that day, and have them put a thumb up or a thumb down to indicate how it made them feel. In a quick go-round, anyone who wants to can tell his or her memory.