



## Sample Strategy: Making Connections

**Specific Problem:** Child needs to develop friendships

**Method:** Developmental, Social

**Curriculum Level:** Advanced

**Problem:** Darlene has not developed many friendships at school.

**Solution:** Darlene's teacher implements a circle of friends to help Darlene make connections with her peers and develop relationships. In preparing the circle of friends for Darlene, her teacher makes three different planning decisions: (1) she identifies activities where Darlene might interact with peers, (2) identifies where the activities might occur, and (3) chooses the friends who will participate in the activities with Darlene. She has Darlene's parents help in the process. The teacher makes a schedule that graphically shows these pairings. For example, Darlene will have lunch with Mary and school and with Ben at a restaurant or picnic in the community. A familiar adult (i.e., a parent or the teacher) previews the activities with Darlene so she will know what to expect and can focus on interacting with peers. The adult joins the children for the activities at first, helping the peers (when needed) by modeling positive interactions for them.

## Graphic Needed to Describe Above

**Results:** Through the support of her school team and scheduled interactions with her peers, Darlene begins to develop meaningful friendships with those around her.

\* Refer to the Insights to Behavior support procedure Circle of Friends to tailor this concept to a specific child.

\* *This is one of 400 Strategies.*