This week’s theme is **Peer Interaction & Friendship**

**Early Learning Standard 1.9:** Children interact and build relationships with peers as they expand their world beyond the family and develop skills in cooperation, negotiation, and showing empathy.

1. Child prefers certain playmates and develops bonds with peers.

**Parents can:** Acknowledge and help child express feelings of friendship.

2. Child can negotiate play with small groups of children.

**Parents can:** Provide opportunities for child to play in small groups; encourage interdependent play and other positive social behaviors. Respect peer preferences while promoting acceptance of each child.

3. Child can cooperate with others.

**Parents can:** Provide assistance and props for child to engage in cooperative play, such as building blocks or playing grocery store.

4. Child can use problem-solving strategies when conflicts arise with peers.

**Parents can:** Teach child steps for solving problems: identifying the problem, brainstorming solutions, choosing a solution, trying it, evaluating how it went, and making adjustments.

For more tips, send “SIGNUP” to 406-204-3583 or ask a children’s librarian.