

# Helping Preschoolers Get to Know Each Other



- \* **Puppets:** Have children create a "me" puppet with paper plates, yarn, construction paper and a popsicle stick for a handle. Then encourage kids to hide their face with the puppet and tell the friends in group time their name and something about themselves.
- \* **Games:** 1) Play a game where children stand up if they...have a brother, have a pet, etc. 2) Children roll or toss a ball to each other and as they catch it, they tell their favorite color, food, etc.
- \* **Show & Tell:** Ask children to bring something from home to share with others.
- \* **Songs:** Try the favorite chant "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?" or other songs that use children's names.
- \* **Photos:** Have children create frames for photos they bring in from home and hang them on the walls to foster a welcoming atmosphere. Invite children to talk about the photos during group time. You could also make a class book for the library center!
- \* **Centers:** Encourage children to spend time in each center so they'll naturally have the opportunity to play with different children. "You've finished your picture! Would you like to go to the block center and play with Maria and Jonathan or read a book with Shelah?"
- \* **Connecting Kids:** Invite pairs of children to complete a job together so they can learn to work together and build classroom community.
- \* **Connecting Families:** 1) Encourage families to arrange play dates outside of school. 2) Organize a picnic or other outside activity for children and families to get to know one another in a different setting.