



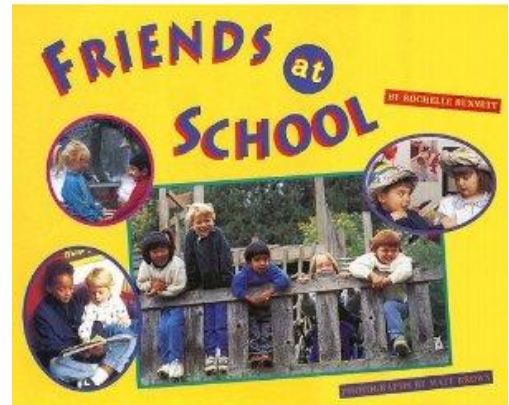
HSCI Community Book Group: *Friends at School* By Rochelle Bunnet & Matt Brown

Using books to teach about Inclusion and differences

Friends at School

Rochelle Bunnet & Matt Brown
Star Bright Books

This book reads like a photo album of an inclusive preschool. Real photos show the children in this book participating in day to day preschool activities together. It is a true representation of diversity and community in a preschool classroom. Children will enjoy meeting these students in this class and seeing what they do at school!



Ideas for how to use this story in the classroom:

- Create a "Friends at School" book for your classroom. Using photos of the children in your classroom, write about things they like to do at school and at home. Include facts about the children that their classmates may not know yet (i.e. one child has 3 brothers, another loves green vegetables). Read this book during circle time and also make it available at other times for kids to read together in small groups. Kids could also "check it out" and take it home for a few days to show their families.
- Use this book to as a component to a "same and different" theme unit. Help kids to categorize fruits, vegetables, things with wheels, etc. Find anything that allows for discussions around how items can be both the same and different.

Ideas for how to use this story at home with your child:

- Create an "All about Me" book with paper and a three-ring binder. Take photos or draw pictures of your child enjoying the things they like to do. Add a section for them to fill in their "favorites" such as their favorite food, favorite book, favorite TV show, etc. A three ring binder will allow you to add more pages as your child grows.
- Emphasize what's the same. Another child may have different needs than your child, but he's still a child first. Talk to your child about what they have in common with a classmate with special needs—They may be the same age, go to the same school, play at the same park, or enjoy the same games.