Friendship

A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books (Toddler– Early Elementary)
Click on each title below to see the library’s catalog record. Then click on the title in the record for details, current availability, or to place a hold. For additional books and items on this theme, ask your librarian or search the library’s online catalog.

Picture Books:
* = toddler picks

Being a Good Friend

Bella & Bean by Rebecca Dotlich
Best Friends for Frances by Russell Hoban
A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Marla Frazee (ages 6+)
Crafty Chloe by Kelly DiPucchio
Duck Soup by Jackie Urbanovic
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson (ages 6+)
The Hole in the Middle by Paul Budnitz
Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator! by Mo Willems
I’m Not by Pam Smallcomb
Leonardo the Terrible Monster by Mo Willems*
Little Bear’s Friend (beginning reader) by Else Holmelund Minarik
Lost and Found/Up and Down by Oliver Jeffers
Louder, Lili by Gennifer Choldenko
My Friend Maya Loves to Dance by Cheryl Willis Hudson
My Friend Rabbi by Eric Rohmann*
Poppleton (beginning reader series) by Cynthia Rylant
Rabbit’s Gift: A Fable from China by George Shannon
Root Beer and Banana by Sarah Sullivan (ages 5+)
A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead
Since We’re Friends: An Autism Picture Book by Celeste Shally
Sneaky Weasel by Hannah Shaw (ages 5+)
When No One is Watching by Eileen Spinelli
Wilfred by Ryan Higgins (ages 5+)
The Yellow Tutu by Kirsten Bramsen
You are to Me by Rebecca Doughty
You Can Be a Friend by Tony Dungy (ages 5+)

Making Friends

Bee-Wigged by Cece Bell (ages 5+)
David’s Drawings by Cathyrn Falwell
Disappearing Desmond by Anna Alter
Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy by David Soman
Lissy’s Friends by Grace Lin
My Best Friend by Mary Ann Rodman
The Next Door Bear by Mary Kuryla-Yelchin
The New Arrival by Vanya Nastanlieva
The New Girl and Me by Jacqui Robbins (ages 5+)
**Oliver** by Birgitta Sif  (ages 5+)
**Poindexter Makes a Friend** by Mike Twohy (ages 5+)
**The Red Book** (wordless) by Barbara Lehman
**Ribbit!** by Rodrigo Folgueira*
**Say Hello** by Jack Foreman
**Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend** by Melanie Watt
**Swim! Swim!** by James Proimos
**A Very Big Bunny** by Marisabina Russo

**A Visitor for Bear** by Bonny Becker
Curmudgeonly Bear has a cozy cottage with a decidedly un-cozy sign posted on the front door: “No visitors allowed.” When a very persistent and polite mouse invites himself over for tea, Bear repeatedly rebuffs the unwanted visitor until he finds his grumpiness is replaced with curiosity. Much to his own surprise, Bear warms to his tiny guest, and by the end of Mouse’s visit, Bear is regaling Mouse with his life story as well as showing off his headstand skills. Gentle, expressive illustrations capture Bear’s shifting emotions as well as Mouse’s bright-eyed charm. The perfect blend of humor and sweetness at the core of this timeless tale emphasizes that patience and good listening skills can defrost even the grumpiest of demeanors. For ages 3-6.

**You Will Be My Friend!** by Peter Brown

**Zuzu’s Wishing Cake** by Linda Michelin

**Overcoming Conflicts**

**A Bargain for Frances** by Russell Hoban
**Best Best Friends** by Margaret Chodos-Irvine
**The Cardboard Piano** by Lynne Rae Perkins (ages 5+)
**Duck & Goose/Duck, Duck, Goose** by Tad Hill*
**Enemy Pie** by Derek Munson (ages 6+)
**Flabbersmashed about You** by Rachel Vail
**Friends** by Mies van Hout
**I Don’t Want to Be a Pea!** by Ann Bonwill
**I’m the Best!** by Lucy Cousins*
**Ira Sleeps Over** by Bernard Waber
**Jane and Mizmow** by Matthew Armstrong
**Moonbear’s Pet** by Frank Asch
**Ollie and Claire** by Tiffany Haber
**Peace, Baby!** by Linda Ashman*
**Pug & Doug** by Steve Breen (ages 5+)
**Sorry!** by Norbert Landa
**Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always** by Tao Nyeau
**Two of a Kind** by Jacqui Robbins

**Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great** by Bob Shea
Unicorn poses proudly, surrounded by rainbows, cupcakes, glitter, and sheer charisma, while grumpy Goat glowers in the corner. This cover scene reveals to children that jealousy is at the center of this tale. Goat grumbles at Unicorn’s seeming perfection; from flying, to advanced magic tricks, to prancing skills, everything seems to come easily to Unicorn. Embittered, Goat takes to imitating Unicorn by prancing about with a plunger on his forehead in lieu of a horn. Goat only starts to recognize his own strengths, including goat cheese-making and mountain climbing, when Unicorn points them out. Unicorn’s willingness to share his own insecurities, as well as notice the good qualities in others, wins over the once resentful Goat. In fact, the new friends decide they would make quite the crime-fighting duo when combining Unicorn’s power of flight with Goat’s “cloven [hooves of] justice.” This surprisingly nuanced friendship story will resonate with children ages 4-8.
What about Bear? by Suzanne Bloom*
The Worst Best Friend by Alexis O'Neil

Opposites Attract/Unlikely Friendships

Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse by Leo Lionni
Asiago by Adam McHeffey
Bear and Bee by Sergio Ruzzier*
Big Mean Mike by Michelle Knudsen
Boy + Bot by Ame Dyckman
Dog and Bear (series) by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Elephant and Piggie (beginning reader series) by Mo Willems
Frog and Toad (series) by Arnold Lobel
George and Martha (series) by James Marshall
Help! A Story of Friendship/Sophie's Window by Holly Keller
Hurry Up and Slow Down by Layn Marlow
Jumpy Jack and Googily by Meg Rosoff
Mac and Cheese/Mac and Cheese and the Perfect Plan (beginning readers) by Sarah Weeks
The Octonauts & the Only Lonely Monster by Meomi
Ready for Anything by Keiko Kasza
A Splendid Friend Indeed by Suzanne Bloom*

The Story of Fish and Snail by Deborah Freedman
Intrepid Goldfish feels stifled by the confines of his aquarium-within -a -picture-book while timid Snail’s idea of adventure is playing “sleeping cats.” Snail loves to hear Fish’s stories of adventure from beyond the borders of the book they dwell in, but he doesn’t want to actually meet pirates or princesses or explore sunken ships. When Snail dares Fish to go exploring without him, Fish does just that, much to Snail’s distress. Realizing that he must expand his interests to keep his friend, Snail ventures to the edges of his own book. Snail bravely dives into another open book, plunging into an illustration of the open sea, surprising himself with his courage, and earning the admiration of Fish. The happily reunited duo set off on a new adventure. Freedman’s innovative tribute to the imaginative realms of stories will captivate children ages 4-8.

Suryia and Roscoe: The True Story of an Unlikely Friendship by Bhagavan Antle
Toot & Puddle (series) by Holly Hobbie
Wolf Pie (beginning reader) by Brenda Seabrooke

Non-Fiction and Parent/Teacher

Friendliness by Cynthia Amoroso

Friends by Katherine Thimmesh*
From the tiger cub and baby orangutan embracing on the cover, to a squirrel monkey perched on a capybara’s back, these compelling photos capture extraordinary, yet authentic animal friendships. Each duo is depicted with a full-page photo; the sentiment expressed by each photo is compellingly captured in a few lines of prose. While the photos and prose can be appreciated by children as young as three, older children will appreciate the informational text that provides some background to each pairing. For ages 3-10.

Making Friends by Fred Rogers
Me, My Family, and Friends: 26 Songs and over 300 Activities for Young Children by
Pamela Byrne Schiller
Owen and Mzee: The Language of Friendship/Owen and Mzee: the True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff
Ready for Kindergarten! From Recognizing Colors to Making Friends, Your Essential Guide to Kindergarten Success by Deborah Stewart
The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help your Child Make Friends by Natalie Elman
Terra and Bella: The Elephant and Dog that Became Best Friends by Carol Buckley
Want to Play? Kids Talk about Friendliness by Pamela Nettleton (ages 6+)
Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!: A Story of Friendship in Two Languages by Eric Carle

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