



Head Start School Intervention Project
Cooperation: Friendship Wreath

Goal of activity: Children exposed to violence are often sensitive to physical contact with others. Physical contact may trigger negative body memories. This activity will expose children to gentle touch through fun and color while building relational skills.

Approximate length of activity: 10 – 15 minutes

Materials: washable paints, brushes, large paper, ribbon balls

Instructional Procedures:

- The teacher/aide will prepare a large circular outline on the sheet of paper.
- The teacher/aide will paint each child’s hands one at a time.
- Children will place their handprint on the circular outline to create a friendship wreath.
- The teacher/aide will label the wreath with the class name.
- Children will decorate the wreath with ribbons.
- The teacher/aide will ask the children about working together and friendship.

“Was it fun to make something with all the other kids?” “Can you see where your hand is in the wreath?” “Whose hand is next to yours?”



Feeling Good about Learning



Feeling Safe



Making and Keeping Friends



KEY POINTS – hypersensitivity to touch
 overwhelmed by working with peers.

Avoiding paint on hands

- Allow them to dip a finger in the paint.
- Allow them to paint their own hand.
- Trace the child’s hand on a piece of paper to be glued to the wreath.

Difficulty cooperating with others

- Provide calming through tone of voice, breathing and engaging child in an activity in another part of the room.
- Work with pairs of children pairs of children.
- Work one on one with child to add handprint after others have finished with theirs.



LITERACY TIPS

Oral Language

- Ask children to describe some things they do with other children. Provide some options: “What are some things you do with other kids when you are outside on the playground?”

Phonology

- Read names of children aloud off the wreath and see if children can guess the first letter in each child’s name by listening to the sound.

Print Knowledge

- Ask children to find a friends name on the wreath.