

# How to be a Friend of Children and Youth

1. Be a role model. Children are always watching. They will learn from more from your actions than from your words.
2. Reach out to a child. A smile or word of encouragement can mean a lot, whether it comes from a parent or other adult.
3. Reach out to a parent. Remember that all parents, rich and poor, want the same things for their children — a home, health, an education and a chance to succeed.
4. Keep an eye on local and national policy decisions that affect children and elect officials who put caring into action.
5. Encourage parents and all people who care for children to vote. Establish voter registration booths in schools, day care centers, clinics and other venues where people gather.
6. Write letters to the editors of publications applauding people who help children and families. Blow the whistle on those who hurt them.
7. Make your neighborhood an extended family. Organize a block party, a family cleanup day or a neighborhood watch. Be sure to include people of all ages.
8. Make your workplace family friendly. Form a parents' support group; advocate for onsite day care or promote corporate contributions to your community schools and recreation programs.
9. Volunteer. Child welfare agencies, churches and temples, schools, recreation centers, children's hospitals and other organizations need capable, caring adults to work with children.
10. Write a check to your local child abuse prevention organization. Georgia's children and families need your support.

