

SKILLS THAT PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

- noticing positive examples of behavior in another person
- giving immediate enthusiastic approval or thanks for another's positive behaviors
- providing real-life and functional models of kind acts
- taking pleasure in trying to make the other person feel good
- noticing the verbal and nonverbal indicators of another's feelings and listening empathetically to the other person
- having conversations that are fun for both people
- playing well with another person
- modeling enthusiasm when participating in joint activities
- withholding unnecessary command and directives
- giving clear directives when necessary
- making correct decisions about how much to expect and ask of another
- giving fluent explanations of how to do tasks
- enforcing directives in a kind and firm way
- ignoring trivial negative behaviors
- remaining calm and rational when the other does undesirable things
- deciding which negative behaviors to punish or reprimand
- using only humane punishment or reprimands
- not accepting invitations for a hostile argument with another person
- listing options and choosing among them rationally when joint decisions are made

Strayhorn, J. M. Jr., Strain, P., & Walker, H. M. (1993). The case for interaction skills training in the context of tutoring as a preventive mental health intervention in schools. *Behavioral Disorders, 19*, 11-26.