



*“A friend is a person who knows me and still likes me.
“A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.”*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

As I pondered writing this article, I came upon many quotes honoring true and deep friendship.

For example:

“And a youth said, “Speak to us of Friendship.”

“Your friend is your needs answered... For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace... And when he is silent your heart ceases not to listen to his heart.

“And let your best be for your friend...”

“For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill?”

“Seek him always with hours to live.

- Excerpts from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

One of my favorite quotes on friendship simply states,

“A friend is someone who knows all about you but loves you anyway.” (Anon.)

I find great comfort in knowing a friend loves me for just being me. Ralph Waldo Emerson explains it more eloquently,

“A friend is a person, with whom I may be sincere, Before him, I may think aloud.”

In today’s world of hustle & bustle and glitz & glam, being able to be truly genuine with someone means so much.

A friendship of different life experiences or phases of life can be so enriching. George Eliot agreed,

“Perhaps the most delightful friendships are those in which there is much agreement, much disputation, and yet more personal liking.”

These friendships often are more able to draw from the differences and reveal our better selves. It’s amazing to me how rewarding and comfortable a friendship with differences can be.

(My husband) and I have a dear friendship with a couple whose marriage has fallen apart. It has been painful and uncomfortable to see them struggle.

At first we thought we would just act like we didn’t know. But we did know! And by doing so we were unable to support and nurture them. They both felt so alone and burdened. We weren’t able to “heroically” save their marriage. But we gave a non-judgmental ear to listen and a strong shoulder to lean on. We were able to help smooth the painful transition for their children. We stood by them in their time of need.

We do love and appreciate the friend that will stand by us in our trials:

The Friend Who Just Stands By

Lindon Resident

“Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery, by doubling our joy, and dividing our grief.”

-Joseph Addison



Book List



“The How I Found a Friend”

by Irena Hale

“The Very Lonely Firefly”

by Eric Caril

“The Giving Tree”

by Shel Silverstein

“The Secret Garden”

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Family Activities

–Make a new family friend. As a family, make a Christmas craft or treat and take it to someone that you don’t know quite as well. Use this as a springboard for a get-acquainted conversation.

–Encourage involvement in various hobbies. A child that has many interests is fun to be around. While pursuing a hobby, your child may find a friend that he enjoys working with.

--Rudyard Kipling, was born on December 30, 1865. He is remembered for his short stories, poetry, and novels. One of his novels, *The Jungle Book*, tells about a boy and his adventures and friendships with animals.

How do friendships with those that are different from us enrich our lives?

**“Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow.
Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead.
Walk beside me and just be my friend.”**

–Albert Camus

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson



Kid’s Corner

Children are the fastest learners in the world, especially when they watch and follow adults.

Here are some suggestions on what children can learn from adults to be a good friend.

1. FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN GIVE TO A FRIEND, NOT WHAT YOU CAN GET OUT OF A FRIENDSHIP.
2. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS.
3. BE WILLING TO FORGIVE.
4. BE DEPENDABLE.
5. DON'T TRY TO CONTROL YOUR FRIENDS.
6. BE THERE FOR THE GOOD AND THE BAD TIMES.
7. LEARN TO ACCEPT DIFFERENCES IN YOUR FRIENDS.

Lindon Character Connection is a group of parents, teachers, business and religious leaders who met over 20 years ago to formulate an education curriculum which would teach shared community values to the Lindon Elementary School children.

Our goal was to “connect” the home and family, the teachers and schools and the business and religious communities in teaching and using these shared values. Thousands of hours have been donated to this cause by the many parents, teachers and community leaders who have supported the teaching of values to the children of Lindon. The Lindon Character Connection has been, is and always will be dedicated to teaching and developing shared values in the community, and its belief that the heart of a strong community is the home. With the support of our schools, and community we see a bright future for our citizens and especially our children!

www.lindoncharacterconnection.com

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Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting volunteer or financial support. If you can help please send contributions to:

*Lindon Character Connection c/o Lindon City
100 North State St., Lindon, Utah 84042-1808 (*

You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)