

Friendship

You might notice:

Friends are becoming more important.

Friends have a bigger influence.

Friend groups can change often.

Friendships could look like:

A Squad

(a large group of friends with a common interest).

3-4

Close Friends.

1

BFF they can't live without.

Flying Solo

(Some students decide it's not worth the drama).

Remember:



You are still the biggest ongoing influence in who your student becomes.



You play a crucial role in coaching your middle schooler when it comes to friendships.

How can you help?

- Use your car. You decide who you will and won't drive them to hang out with. (ex. clubs/teams/friends)
- Sign them up for activities with friends you trust.
- Whenever possible, host their friends at your house!
- Develop a code word your student can use when they're asking for something in front of other people that they actually want you to say no to.

Hot Tip: When it comes to friend drama...

Try not to step in and rescue them. You could unknowingly communicate that you don't think they can handle it. Instead, be more of a coach and talk them through it.



Our friends determine the **direction** and **quality** of our lives.

That's true for us and the students we love. So, tear off this part of the page, take your student out for a treat (coffee, dessert, etc), and talk about what qualities they're looking for in a good friend. Have them fill in the blanks below with words that describe a great friend, and save this so you can revisit the conversation later.
