13. SUBJECT: Helping your kids pick good friends

As adults, it’s easy to see that we become like those we spend time with. It’s harder for our kids to see and understand this. That’s why we’ve got to teach them how to pick good friends.

It’s important to be kind to everyone, yes. That’s an important lesson for our kids to learn, too. But at the same time, they need to see how crucial it is to look for peers who will build them up, who have the same goals and standards.

Here’s today’s *Tip for Modern Parents*:

**Help your kids look for peers who will be good friends.**

It probably won’t work so well to say, “He’s a good kid—I want you to be friends with him.” Those kinds of directives tend to backfire with children!

A better approach might be to ask your child questions, starting the conversation about friendship:

* What makes a good friend?
* Who do you know that is a good friend?
* When can friendship be dangerous?
* Why do we have friends?

And make sure to continue the conversation—your child needs to know that you’re there for him or her when it comes to making and keeping friends.

Onward to better parenting,

ADD NAME