Developing a Friendship with Your Child

Most of us never really consider ourselves to be our young child’s friend. However, we do share a unique form of friendship with him or her. It is unlike any other friendship with another person, and it has the potential to be one of the most powerful relationships our child will ever experience. Perhaps the power of friendship is the reason Coach Wooden included it as one of the five foundational character traits in the Pyramid of Success™!

Coach Wooden had an exceptional friendship with his father that grew out of respect, admiration, and kindness. When asked about his father, Coach Wooden replied, “My father was a good person. I don’t believe there’s ever been a better person than my dad.” He said, “Thinking back, some of the things he did became so meaningful…For example, he tried to get across to us never try to be better than someone else. Learn from others and never cease trying to be the best you can be at whatever you’re doing. He tried to get those ideas across, maybe not in so many words, but by action.” Coach Wooden admired his father because he inspired him to be the best person that he could be, every day of his life. His father treated him with respect, kindness, gentleness, and love—all of the ingredients that are needed to create a great friendship.

Protecting Your Child from Bullying

We’ve read about it. We’ve seen it. We may have even experienced it. Bullying is a problem that affects us all.

The Premier Character Development Agenda uses Coach Wooden’s Pyramid of Success™ to help students develop strong character with the aim of reducing instances of violence and bullying in our schools. However, until this social problem is a thing of the past, there are steps that as parents we can take at home to protect our children.

**Protect your child from bullying by:**

- **Defining bullying behavior.** If a child is made to feel hurt, embarrassed, uncomfortable, or scared, he or she is being bullied.

- **Dealing with bullying behavior.** Address the issue by teaching your child to walk away or ignore the bullying, or approach your child’s teacher about the problem.

- **Supporting your child.** Reassure your child that the bullying is not his or her fault and that you are there to help or just listen.