

The MHA family shares a system of values and behaviors that recognizes and respects the presence and contributions of all diverse groups.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call our Crisis Helpline at 1-800-832-1200.

Our phone lines are open 24 hours a day, everyday.



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United Way Agency



**Mental Health Association in  
Orange County, Inc.**

# Friends

**Everybody needs a friend.....**



## ▶ FRIENDS GROUP

*“Friendship makes the work go round”*

If you answered yes to the following questions your child would be perfect for the **Friends Group!**

1. Are you looking for social interaction for your child?
2. Does your child have a hard time making and maintaining friends?
3. Does your child struggle with “fitting” in socially or at school functions?



Friends are vital to school-age children's healthy development. Research has found that children who lack friends can suffer from emotional difficulties later in life. Friendships provide children with more than just fun playmates. Friendships help children develop emotionally and morally. In interacting with friends, children learn many social skills, such as how to communicate, cooperate, and solve problems. They practice controlling their emotions and responding to the emotions of others. They develop the ability to think through and negotiate different situations that arise in their relationships. Having friends even affects children's school performance. Children tend to have better attitudes about school and learning when they have friends there. In short, children benefit greatly from having friends.

*-University of Florida Study*

## Friends Group Facts...

**FRIENDS** group is a social group for children ages 9-17 that have a social and or behavior issues.

**FRIENDS** group runs for 8 week sessions in various locations throughout Orange County.

**FRIENDS** group is facilitated by an LCSW.

**FRIENDS** group is free! There may be minimal fees associated with some of the community activities.

**FRIENDS** group always welcomes parents' concerns, issues and involvement.

**CALL MENTAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION AND AN  
APPLICATION  
(845) 342-2400  
1-800-832-1200  
website: [www.mhaorangeney.com](http://www.mhaorangeney.com)**

