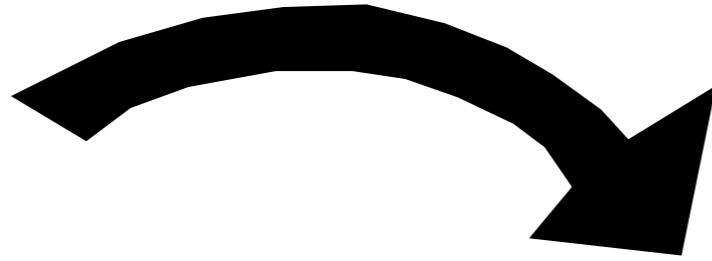


A Story that tells about the *Secret* of Making Friends

Todd T. Kellogg, LMFT, BCBA

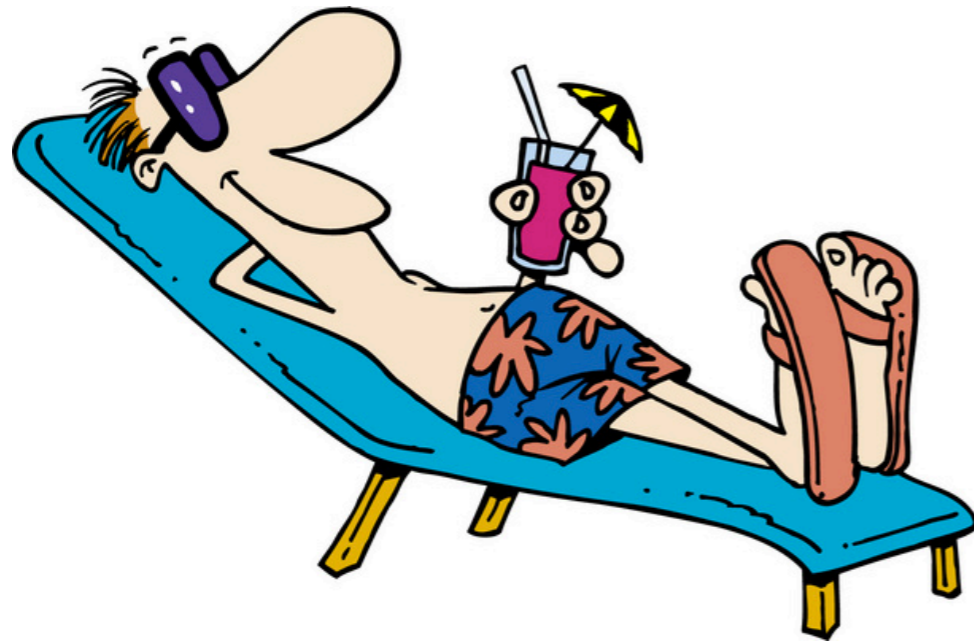
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There was a
Doctor who
worked with
children...



Who decided he needed a
vacation. So off he went
to a resort island.



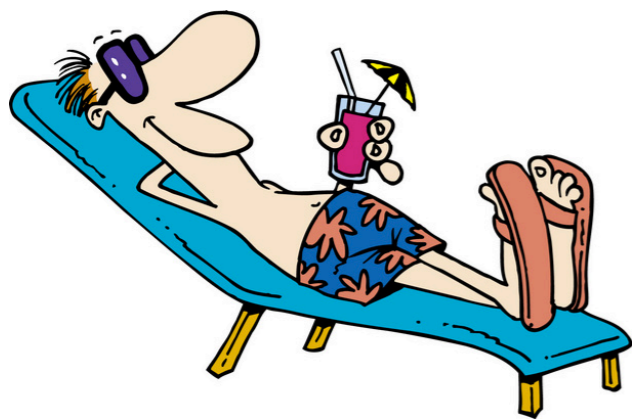
The good Doctor did two things while on vacation. First, he sat by the pool.

And second, he sat at the beach.



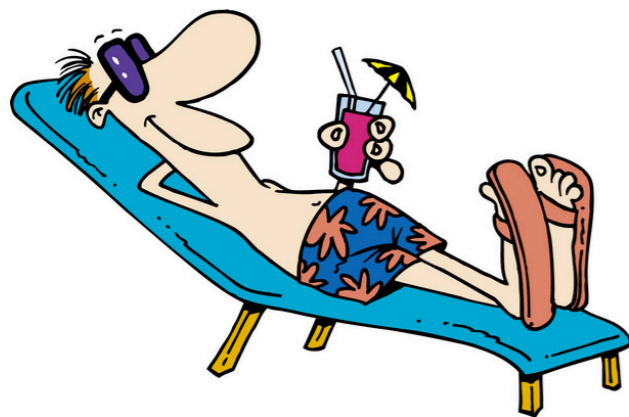


And actually there was a third thing. He watched the children play together at the pool, playground, and at the beach. The Doctor was a “people watcher” and was very interested in how children learned to play together.



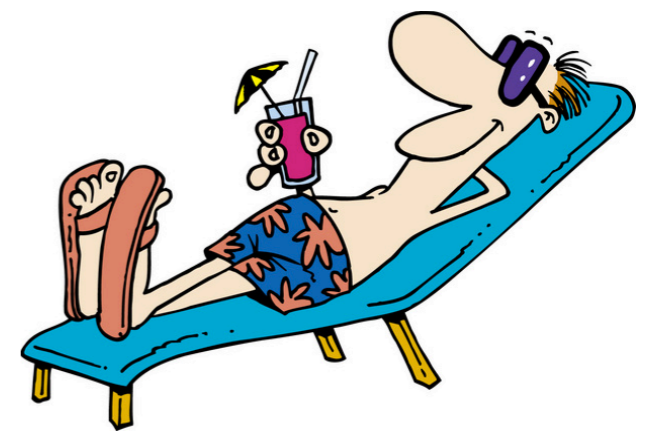


The Doctor was fascinated with how different children met each other on vacation, tried to become “quick friends,” and then play together. He saw this happen every day at the pool.





From his poolside chair, the Doctor was also able to see the playground and park at the resort. Children were meeting each other there too, and some would end up playing together.





The resort supplied most of the toys to play with. And there were some adults to help organize certain games, but it was up to the children to make it fun and have a good time.





At the beach it was no different. Many children got to know each other and form small groups to play in. And new children that just arrived would eventually see a small group and try to join in.





Because this was all happening at a resort where people were vacationing, everyday some families would leave to go back home while others would just be arriving.



So on any day two children would play as “new” friends...only for one to have to go back home before the other.

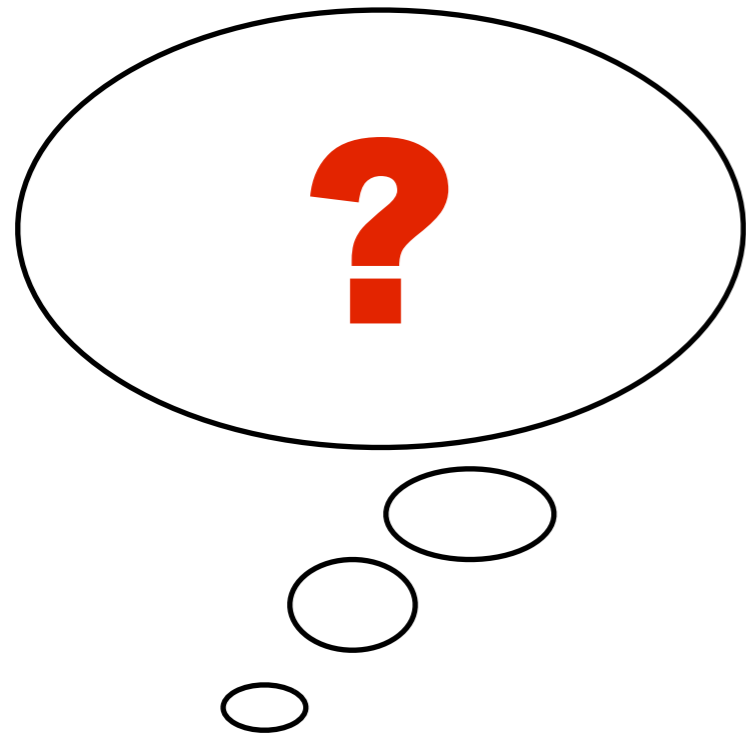


And then the next day it would start all over again, when someone new would arrive and meet another child that was still on vacation.



The Doctor would just watch and watch and watch...all day until it got dark. And he started to wonder about something...

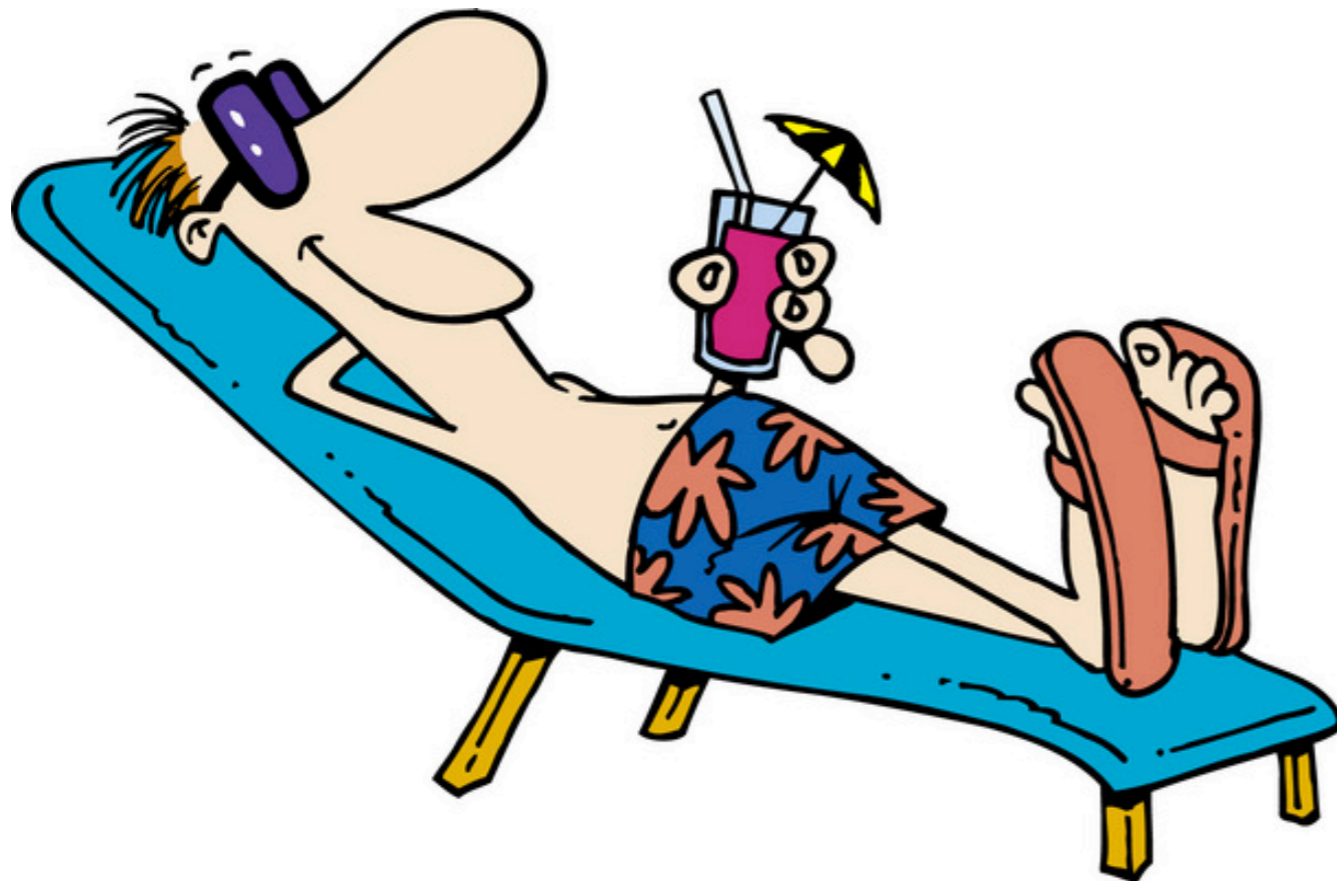




WHY? Why was it that some children were “quick” to get to know one another and join a group...?

And it took others longer?

While still others never successfully joined a group...and even a few never even tried?





And then the good Doctor had a thought...and he remembered back at what he saw during his whole week observing children.





The children that were quicker in meeting others and began playing were able to *show* the other children that they would bring **Value** to the group...meaning that the group was more enjoyable because he or she was playing too.



Some of the children that were not able to show this kind of **Value** took longer to join a group...while a few ended up not playing with any other children at all.





Sharing



Value
means...



Taking turns



Compromising - first we play
in the sand, then the water.



Playing together - Staying
together; Laughing;
Complimenting...



EVERYONE can learn HOW to bring **Value** to a relationship. Friendships are made because each child brings the other some level of **Value**.



To be continued with more examples of how we bring **Value** to one another..In the meantime, please feel free to visit the website at PositiveFamilyBehavior.com to check out all the social skills lessons that are targeted to teach children how to bring value to each other in day-to-day experiences.

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Elements of this story were heard at a workshop several years ago. The speaker was Tony Attwood, who many believe to be a world renown expert on Aspergers.