

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning Hello, Friend! by Rebecca Cobb (Macmillan)

1. Explore it

Read the spread from the text below and look carefully at the illustration:



I really love to play with my friend,
and my friend loves to play with me.

Talk together about what is happening here. Who can you see? How can you describe them? What are they doing? Where do you think they are? Take some time to look carefully at the faces of the characters. How do you think they are feeling? What do you think makes them feel this way?

Now read the text again and think about the words you hear. Which of the characters do you think is saying these words? What makes you think this? Why do you think they love to play with each other? What else do you think they might play together?

Now think more carefully about the word **friend**. What is a friend? What do you think made these two children become friends? How can you see that they are friends in the illustration, as well as hearing it in the words?

2. Illustrate it

Look carefully at the faces of the two characters again. How do you think they are feeling? What tells you this? See if you can look at the illustration and use this to draw the characters feeling this way. You could watch a video of the author and illustrator of the book, Rebecca Cobb, drawing the characters and draw along with her: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciTrGCHrktY>

Now think about what would happen if their feelings changed. How might their faces look if they were sad, angry or surprised? Stand in front of a mirror and see if you can show how it might look if you were feeling this way. See if you can draw the characters again feeling a different way. Show your drawing to someone else and see if they can guess how the characters are feeling. Now think, what might have happened to make them feel this way?

3. Talk about it

- Who are your friends? What do you know about them? What do you like to do with them?
- Do friends have to like the same things or do everything together?
- How do you make friends with someone else?
- What might you do to help a friend if they were sad, upset or scared?

4. Imagine it

Look again at the illustration from the book. What do you think the two characters might be thinking or saying to each other?

Come up with some ideas and think about whether these might be things they are thinking in their head or whether they are saying these things out loud. When you have some good ideas, write these in speech or thought bubbles yourself, or with help from someone else and stick them to the illustration.

5. Create it

Think about one of your friends. How long have you known them? What do you know about them? What makes you such good friends? What do you have in common? What do you like to do together? What is different about you?

Think of a special time you have shared with the friend you were thinking about. Work hard to hold this memory in your mind. Can you remember where you were? What you were doing? How you were feeling?

Make a picturebook page, like the one you have just seen to show you with your friend. Try to capture the scene you remembered in your mind. Think carefully about how to show what it is you are doing and how you are feeling, like Rebecca Cobb has in the book.

Think of what words you might like to write to go alongside your picture. What might you want to say about your friend, or the moment that you have chosen? Write these down somewhere on the page, either by yourself or with help from someone else.

You might like to share this with the friend you wrote about. How might you be able to do this?