

Friendships are precious


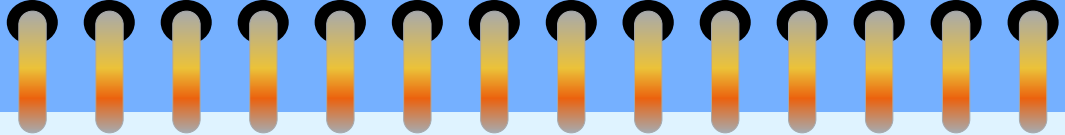
By Ibrahim Hagen (Grade 3)

Every Saturday, my best friend and I would meet at the deck outside my house. We both bring toys to share with each other. Sometimes my mom would bring us a fruit platter so we can sit out in the sun and get the benefits of the sun and enjoy our day together. Our days outside are special, sometimes when we get bored we will ride our bikes around the parking lot, play hide and seek and have a lot of fun. I love that my best friend is my neighbor. Somedays, he comes over at my house and we will watch shows together and munch on our favourite foods. He loves pizza and I really enjoy sushi.

One day, I was at his house and we were playing. All of a sudden, I realized that I felt uncomfortable because my best friend was behaving a bit aggressive. He must have had a bad day. I took a deep breath to gather my emotions but it was a little too late. He came out of nowhere and hit me in the nose with his shark toy. I didn't know how to react. I felt scared but I didn't cry. I asked him, what's the matter? would you like to talk about what's bothering you?

I could tell there was embarrassment on his face for his actions. His gaze was low and his cheeks were red. I have experienced something similar before, we all act up sometimes and we aren't proud of it. So I offered him a hug.





Finally, he came to a realization that he must have hurt my feelings. He apologized and shared that he had been feeling a bit jealous from his younger sister. He said it feels like she steals away all the time of his parents and he didn't like that. It was a relief to hear that it has nothing to do with me and I offered him to spend more time together. We decided when he is feeling this way he can try to meditate and may be read a little on his own or play with his toys . If that doesn't work then I am only across the street so he can come get me after asking for his mother's permission and we will get some fresh air and ride our bikes.

I felt so blessed to be able to treat him with kindness in that moment because my mother always says we should treat the young ones with respect and kindness. My learning experience at Bayaan academy with all the wonderful teachers have also taught me that kindness changes a lot. I love how my teachers treat me even when they might be frustrated in the moment but are always kind and respectful. It has helped me maintain patience in rough situations. I understand that my best friend is a few years younger than me, so according to the teachings of Islam, I must stay kind and patient in difficult situations. We all learn a lot from our friends. He makes me feel joy and I feel blessed to share my days with him because I don't have a brother. My friendship with Romeo is special to my heart and I am grateful.

