Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® Flexible Friends Poster Kit—an interactive poster and bendable smiley friend set to encourage and remind students to be flexible.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
• Flexible Friends Poster, laminated
• 2 Bendable Smiley Friends
• This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Displaying the Flexible Friends Poster Kit
Before displaying the Flexible Friends Poster Kit, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide and file the pages for future use. Or, download another copy of it from our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com. Hang the Poster where students will be able to see it easily.

Introducing the Flexible Friends Poster Kit
Gather students around the Poster. Have the Smiley Friends, Freddie and Frannie, with you where the students cannot see them. Tell students that you have a story to tell them about two of your friends. Show students Freddie and Frannie, introduce them to the class, and urge students to say hello to the Smiley Friends. Proceed to tell a story similar to the following, but one that is tailored to your class, about a time when Freddie and Frannie needed to be flexible.

“One beautiful Monday morning, Freddie and Frannie got on the school bus excited for a brand-new week at school. They loved Monday journal-and-sharing time. Freddie couldn't wait to write and share about his trip to the zoo that weekend. Frannie was excited to show everyone the new sneakers she had picked out and write about her trip to the shoe store. On the bus, they told each other about their weekends and how they were going to write and share with the class when they got to school. They made a promise not to tell anyone else their news until journal-and-sharing time.

When they arrived in the classroom, though, they noticed that their teacher was not there. A strange woman greeted them at the door saying she was their teacher for the day. She asked them to unpack and take a seat on the carpet. The substitute teacher explained that their teacher hadn't left about my weekend. When is journal time?" thought Frannie.

The teacher saw them talking and asked if there was a problem. She leaned over to Freddie and whispered, "What is going on? What about journal-and-sharing time?"

"Wait, wait. It's journal-and-sharing time," thought Frannie. "Not a problem," said Freddie. "Flexible Friends need to stick together. Sometimes, that means reminding each other to 'go with the flow.'"

Engage students in a conversation about flexibility. Ask the class how Freddie and Frannie showed they could be flexible and didn't let a little change upset them. What does it mean to be flexible? Discuss other things that could happen during the school day and at home where students would have to decide to get upset or decide to be flexible. Create a list of situations when they might need to be flexible and strategies to do this.

Point to the Poster, and read the poem aloud to students. Explain that the Poster will be in the classroom as a reminder to be flexible in all situations. Indicate that at times you may remind them about being a Flexible Friend and that they are to remind each other just like Freddie and Frannie did. Finish by taking a pledge as a class to be Flexible Friends. From time to time, urge students to share strategies that they are using to be Flexible Friends.

A Friendly Reminder
Copy on cardstock and distribute the Flexible Friends Bookmark Reproducible. Have students color the bookmarks and take them home to share with their families. You may also want to attach a brief note about how you plan to use the Poster in your classroom to encourage students to be flexible.

A Surprise Visit with Freddie and Frannie
Copy the Flexible Friends Take-home Note Reproducible. When you see students being flexible throughout the day, reward them by placing a Smiley Friend on their desk for a visit. Accompany the Smiley Friend with a copy of the reproducible for the student to share with his or her parents.

Reminder Visit
Freddie and Frannie may also "visit" students when they need some encouragement or help to be flexible. Allow students who are having a difficult time dealing with transition or change to hold one of the Smiley Friends as a reminder and encouragement to be flexible in the situation.
I was a Flexible Friend today!

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Teacher _____________________________ Date _____________________________

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