

## Whose Friend?



TREND TASK

**Approach:** Station

**Focus:** Friendship.

**Resources:** Illustration in task book.

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

### Questions/instructions:

Imagine that you have this problem:

The person you want to have as your best friend doesn't want you as a best friend. You are very unhappy about this.



1. Write down the ways that you might deal with this problem.

#### Ways to deal with problem:

	% responses	
	2002 ('98) year 4	2002 ('98) year 8
accept person does not want to be your friend ( <i>get over it</i> )	16 (18)	30 (30)
decide to ignore person	11 (7)	6 (12)
talk to friend, try to find out what is wrong	22 (20)	36 (33)
get help/advice from someone else	10 (12)	11 (12)
change behaviour to suit friend	6 (2)	6 (10)
try to change friend's views	20 (32)	13 (28)
negotiate compromise	3 (2)	4 (3)
find new best friend	27 (20)	51 (41)

#### How well has the problem been addressed?

very well	1 (0)	8 (8)
well	12 (7)	29 (32)
moderately well	48 (60)	48 (48)
poorly	39 (33)	15 (12)

2. Who are some people who might be able to help you with this problem?

3. Draw a ring around the person in answer 2 who you think would be the most helpful.

4. Why do you think this person would be the most helpful?

#### Most helpful person:

	% responses	
	2002 ('98) year 4	2002 ('98) year 8
parents/whanau	37 (52)	43 (46)
siblings	4 (0)	3 (5)
teacher/principal	27 (18)	10 (8)
health professional	0 (0)	5 (3)
friends/peers	22 (25)	32 (31)
other adults	3 (1)	2 (2)
other/none	7 (4)	5 (5)

#### Explanation:

strong	12 (14)	30 (26)
moderate	46 (49)	52 (60)
weak	42 (37)	18 (14)

<b>Total score:</b>	5	1 (0)	6 (2)
	4	3 (2)	13 (21)
	3	12 (9)	26 (20)
	2	28 (45)	34 (39)
	1	35 (26)	16 (16)
	0	21 (18)	5 (2)

### Commentary:

Year 8 students were more inclined than year 4 students to find a new best friend, and less inclined to regard school staff as likely to be most helpful with their problem. There was little change between 1998 and 2002.