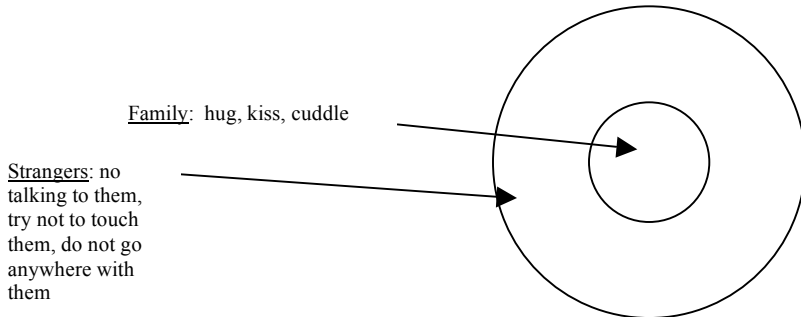




Different Types of Friends



Kids have many different types or different "levels" of friendships. This is kind of like how there are "levels" of how close you get to people. Like, at the outside "level" of people called "Strangers" - I know I should not talk to them, or go anywhere with them. BUT, at different inside "level" of people called, "Family" - I know I can hug them or even kiss them. It looks like this:



There are different types of friendships that are like levels. Each level has its own rules about how close your body can be to that friend, things you talk about, things you do for fun together and even the types of words you use with each other. Here is a chart to help me think about this:



Close Friends

Close friends are like "best friends". You have a lot in common, play at each other's houses, tell and keep secrets, talk on the phone, and do fun things in the community together. You might have sleep-overs. You probably know their parents pretty well too. You care a lot about close friends. You think about them.



Family/Neighborhood Friends

Family or neighborhood friends are kids that live near you that you play with a lot, or kids that are children of your parent's friends that you see when the parents get together. You spend most of your time in your yards, riding bikes, or at each other's houses. You usually see most of these friends after school, in the evenings or in the summertime. You probably know their parents too *and* where they live.



School or Activity Friends

School or activity friends are people that you make a *special effort* to talk to at school or at different after school activities like a sports team, swim or music lesson, church group or other hobby. Remember - they are not just kids in your class or on your team. They would be acquaintances. School or activity friends are kids you make a *special point* to talk to everyday. You talk about your school or team, but also talk about other things like family, favorite things, jokes, etc. You might see these friends outside of school or your team, like at each other's houses, going to a movie, meeting at the arcade, or the park.



Acquaintances

Acquaintances are people that you have met one time or recognize around school or other places you regularly go like activities, sports, or church. They are people that would make good *potential* friends. You might want to ask "safe" questions like "Who is your teacher?", "What games do you like?", "Have you seen the new movie ____" just to start a conversation. Look for things you might have in common that could start more conversation and a new friendship. You should not invite people who are just acquaintances to your house or out in the community to do something fun. You should not share/ask about information that is too personal. Wait to see if they become school or activity friends.