



# Activity Sheet

## ***Clifford the Big Red Dog, Be a Good Friend***

**Written by Norman Bridwell**

Imagine having a dog bigger than a house! In *Clifford the Big Red Dog, Be a Good Friend*, Emily Elizabeth has the biggest, reddest dog in the whole world. Most importantly, Clifford is a good friend who's always cheerful and ready to play and help.

**Tips to prepare for reading:** Tell children you are going to read a book about a dog that is bigger than a house! Show them the cover of the book and ask them if they "know" Clifford. Ask what they know about Clifford. Tell children that Clifford is always a good friend and invite them to listen to the story and look for ways that Clifford shows he is a good friend.

**Ideas on reading the book:** Read the book expressively. Pause when you read a page that exemplifies how Clifford is a good friend. Ask children to identify how Clifford is being a good friend.

**Activities and ideas to use after you read the book:** The story ends with a question for the reader: "I'll keep Clifford.... Wouldn't you?" Point to the question on the last page of the book. Ask children the question. Ask them why they would or wouldn't keep Clifford.

Discuss the importance of friendship and ask children to identify actions that make a good friend (share, help, use kind words, forgive, take turns, say they are sorry and play things that other children want to play).

**Another fun idea:** Make Clifford ears. Using the ear shapes on the back as a template, trace red ears on red construction paper. Then cut long strips of red construction paper

approximately 2" wide. The strips will be the headbands. Have children use safety scissors to cut out the ears. Then staple the ears to the headband and fit the headband to the child's head. Yay! You have a classroom of Cliffords!

**Try this at home:** Read *Clifford the Big Red Dog, Be a Good Friend* with your child. Talk to your child about friends. Who are your friends? What special things do you like to do with your friends? What things do you like to do by yourself? Create a colorful chain of your ideas. Write each of your child's ideas on a single strip of colored paper. Staple, glue or tape the strips together to create a friendship chain. Hang the chain in your home.

Do some of the activities that Clifford and Emily Elizabeth enjoyed together. Play a game, play hide-and-seek, make a blanket tent for a pretend camping trip and have a tea party!

**More from PBS KIDS:** Play *Clifford the Big Red Dog* games. <http://pbskids.org/clifford/games/>

Watch *Clifford the Big Red Dog* video. <http://pbskids.org/video/clifford-big-red-dog>

**Additional books to read:** *Clifford's Manners* by Norman Bridwell and *Friends*, by Helme Heine.

Wisconsin Bookworms gives young children an opportunity to own their first books, develop a love of books and become successful readers.



# Activity Sheet

