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The Relationship between Children's Aggression, their Sociometric Status, and the Quality of their Friendships

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**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDREN'S AGGRESSION,
THEIR SOCIOMETRIC STATUS, AND THE QUALITY OF
THEIR FRIENDSHIPS**

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The purpose of the present study is to assess how children's aggression (relational and overt) and popularity affect the qualities of children's friendships. In addition, the present study explores the interaction effects of aggression and sociometric status on children's friendships. 136 fourth and fifth grade children completed several measures which included a sociometric measure, the aggression portion of the Pupil Evaluation Inventory with measures of relational aggression inserted (Pekarik, Prinz, Libert, Weintraub, & Neil, 1976), and the Friendship Quality Questionnaire (Parker & Asher, 1993). It is hypothesized that the positive features of children's friendships, such as intimate exchange, will correlate with sociometric status. In contrast, it is expected that the negative features of children's relationships, such as conflict and betrayal, will correlate with levels of aggression.