

When Karina came to her new school, she had thought that making friends would be easy. "Don't worry, Karina. You'll soon settle in," said Mum gently. she sobbed. "Oh Karina! Of course you're not a showoff!" "Thanks, Karina. We didn't win, but we wouldn't have got into the final without you." When they played baseball, she hit the ball high into the air, past the fielders, and scored a home run almost every time. "It's all right, thanks, Mr Walker," replied Karina. "I don't want to go to this school, Mum. Everyone thinks that I'm a show-off!" "But I want some friends," sobbed Karina. Karina grinned. Karina taught them how to pass, stop, and dribble the ball. At first, Karina joined in all the games at school. When they played basketball, she raced past the other children to score, again and again. And when they played chasing, no one could catch her -- not even Lisa, who had always been the best runner in the class. Soon, the children stopped asking Karina to play. "Take a break, Karina," he said. "Karina!" said Mum, as she put her arms around Karina. "But I don't try to be better than anyone else!" cried Karina. Making friends at a new school can be difficult," said Mum. "Most of the children have known each other for a long time. Now, let's get our Room 3 team together!" Soon there were eleven people who wanted to play. The Room 3 team practised every day. She also taught them how to flick the ball into the goal. On the day of the competition, the team played really well. Later that day, as they warmed up before the match, Lisa said, "I'm nervous. We're playing against Room 5 -- and they're good!" "Good one, Karina!" Karina laughed. Then she shouted across the field, "Watch out, Room 5! Once they get to know you properly, you'll make lots of friends." The following week at school, Mr Walker put a notice on the class board: HOCKEY Hockey competition in two weeks' time for Rooms 1-8. The children gathered around. Karina's heart jumped. "We'll need a coach." Everyone was silent. Please!" "Thanks, Karina. I've tried to make friends. At lunchtime, the other kids don't ask me to join in their games. We're going to beat you next time!" At her other school, she had known everybody. Now, in this big school, she was lonely. "Go out with the other children. Have some fun!" "I like to get my homework done early." She turned back to her books. "It's not always easy to admit that someone is better than us at something that we enjoy.?"