



# Hiya...

One of the coolest things about being a published author is getting the chance to meet my readers... and making a few personal dreams come true, too! Forget the flash car, the only thing I really wanted to buy with my advance was a VW camper van! It's fab to take the camper van to bookshops, libraries, schools and festivals, and that's how the Cathy Cassidy Friendship Festivals first evolved. A friendship festival is all about having fun - and making new friends! There's always plenty to do - quizzes, hair-braiding, friendship bracelets, face paints... and music and munchies, too, of course!

Friendship is something worth celebrating, so why not get all your friends together and have your very own Friendship Festival... go for it!

Cathy Cassidy  
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## There are lots of ways that you can put on your own Cathy Cassidy Friendship Festival

Here are some ideas to get you started!

### Getting ready:

- Send all your friends an invitation telling them where and when the Friendship Festival is happening. Why not print out the invites from this website?
- You could ask everyone to dress up for the event and maybe award a small prize for the best outfit at the end

### On the day:

- Set the scene by decorating the venue with brightly coloured streamers and balloons
- You could start by announcing the start of the Friendship Festival and explaining how Cathy tours the country with her van
- Gather the everyone together and read an extract from one of Cathy's books
- Friendship bracelets are great fun to make. All you need to do is buy some brightly coloured thread from a department store and then print off the instructions from this website. It's far easier if you work in pairs and get a bit of adult help to start you off
- There are lots of fun quizzes and activity sheets on this website. Get some pens to fill in the sheets and work with your friends to make it more fun
- There are lots of other things you can do to make your Friendship Festival really special, such as hair-braiding, funky music, make-overs, hand/face painting, nail art, t-shirt customising, drinks and munchies, competitions, sleepovers, henna tattoos and lots of other craft activities (eg making bookmarks out of thread and beads).  
Mainly, just have lots of fun with your friends!

