



Helping Your Child Work on Socialization

Provided as a courtesy from the Family Resource Center at Community Gatepath

All children go through phases of social development. A young child may play alone quite happily, babbling to himself and occasionally sharing a treasure with his mother or father. But if another child wanders onto the scene he is likely to get pushed or hit by a flying toy or fist.

For some reason or another, some children have a harder time developing social skills than others.

As children are put into social situations, play dates or other group activities they will slowly learn to regulate themselves. This process can be slow starting with a child learning how to play with one other child, learning to share and take turns. Don't be discouraged if your child is slow to catch on, some children take longer than others. Eventually your child will learn better ways to socialize and get his needs met other than biting, hitting or having a tantrum.

Many children who have speech delays or other special needs get frustrated by their lack of being able to communicate and may act out because of this. Teachers and Therapists can be helpful in working with you to devise ways to deal with your child's frustration.

If your child has difficulty with boundaries and unintentionally crosses into another child's personal space you may need to gently guide your child to the appropriate behavior. Telling them that they need to be gentle or kind to the other child, model the behavior you would like your child to have and keep your voice calm when speaking with your child.

Be persistent in your efforts to help your child improve on his social skills, most likely you will not see changes over night. But with your guidance and encouragement your child will learn to model good social skills, make friends and learn to be a part of a group.

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