

WHAT ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS TO HELP MY CHILD SOCIALIZE WITH PEERS?

- 1) Provide your child with positive experiences** while playing with other children.
- 2) Play with your child.** Those parents who routinely play with their children have more sophisticated social skills and get along better with peers.
- 3) Talk with your child about social relationships and values.** From the age of preschool, this kind of conversation can assist with exchanging information and problem solving.
- 4) Be positive toward social setbacks.** The child who recognizes that the situation can be improved by changing their own behavior is a socially competent child.
- 5) When attempting to find a potential playmate to have over,** ask your child who he/she plays with at recess, on the bus or sits next to at lunch. If your child is unable to identify a specific child, observe your child at school, during church synagogue events or in other settings. (Sometimes children with social deficits develop solitary interests such as drawing, reading, collecting, watching television or playing on the computer).
- 6) Problem-solve scenarios before a child comes over for a play date.** Determine “rules” what will be played with, put away toys that your child has difficulty sharing and problem solve ahead of time by role playing problem scenarios which you feel may occur. The initial playdate should be short (about 1 hr.).
- 7) If a child experiences difficulty in a social setting,** it is important to dissect the situation throughout the child’s day to assist with learning rules.
- 8) End the playdate in a positive manner.**
- 9) After the playdate is finished,** talk to your child about what went well and what didn’t. This conversation will help reinforce the positive aspects and help prevent future problems. At our facility, you will receive additional social skills information which can be beneficial for you to use at home and for teachers to use at school, to carryover the social skills learned in our groups.

Resource: Communication Station Newsletter