

They're Just Shy... But Maybe Not

| BY India Burgess

Signs and Solutions for Socialization Problems in Children

Communication is one of the most important skills for a child to pick up. The better they can communicate, the better they can understand. When should they begin learning how to socialize? - As soon as possible! The sooner your child begins socializing, the better.

However, each child is different. Some kids are excited to do any and everything. Some take baby steps when trying something new, but some simply struggle socially connecting. So how can you tell where your child stands? Licensed psychologist, Brenda Scottsdale from liverstrong.com put together a list of “red flags” to look out for. She advises: “If you see a pattern of socialization problems with your child, seek professional help and counseling to work through the issues at as early an age as possible.”

Signs

- 1.) Early Relationships** – As parents, you are the “chief architects of emotional development.” When it comes to trusting the world around them, kids look to their primary caregivers. During infancy, attentive nurturing is vital for social development.
- 2.) Resists Touch** – Children who don’t seek closeness for insecurity, loneliness, or from simply wanting to be affectionate may be struggling socially. One well-known example is arching their back when being held. Pushing away or aggressive responses when being approached are also problematic signals.
- 3.) Overly Dependent** – If little Susie has a tantrum every time you excused yourself for a few minutes, you may have a problem. Children should be easily comforted after you’ve gone. Don’t get me misunderstand me. Parents should be their kids’ biggest fans, however, letting go is a healthy habit for social development. If your child always tends to be unhappy with trying new things or meeting new people – the issue may not be shyness. There may be deeper forms of fear below the surface.
- 4.) Uninvolved or Uninterested** – Some kids are naturally friendly, but there’s an issue when a child seems to show no difference in an emotional connection between their caregiver verses a complete stranger. It’s natural for kids to express themselves in their own way. “An uninvolved child does not express feelings, even when exposed to situations that cause physical pain, hurt, or distress to most children.”

Does your child have any of the above symptoms? No worries! These tips should help your little caterpillar become a social butterfly before you know it!

Solutions

Enrolling your child in pre-school is one of the best options. As surprising as that may sound, think about it. There are several methods that teachers use to encourage socialization among youngsters. [Kindercare.com](http://www.kindercare.com) created a list of benefits that prove [pre-school](#) teachers are experts in this area.

- 1) Planning and implementing group activities that encourage sharing, taking turns, and respect.
- 2) Creating areas that accommodate small group play.
- 3) Offering activities that kids can do in pairs.
- 4) Encouraging children with similar interests to work together.
- 5) Watching out for kids who aren't socializing with others and helping them to.
- 6) Arranging chairs specifically for face-to-face interaction.

The [list](#) goes on! Enrolling your child in [pre-school classes](#) is one of the best options to ensure proper social development.

References:

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