Kimochis®

building a school-to-home connection

HOMELINKS WEEK 17

Left Out: Including Others

This week, your child learned how to use their eyes and ears to notice that another child might be feeling **left out**. We taught children how important it is to **take the time to be kind** and include everyone. At 3 years of age, youngsters may struggle with this, as they may not recognize that peers are left out of play. They are just developing the ability to notice others' feelings. A 3-year-old will need prompting and guidance from you to help them know how and when to include others in play. By 4 years of age, children are beginning to tune in to important features of a social interaction, such as another child's preferences or desires. They may, however, exclude some children from play if that peer is not a compatible friend. Children who are 5 and 6 years of age who are not yet able to include others will benefit from the Kimochis® lessons. Helping children understand that everyone can play together is an important part of the early childhood experience. Join us in helping your child develop the communication habit of including others!

See reverse for ways your entire family can learn from this week's lesson!

YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND SHARE THIS PAGE
© 2014 Kimochis – Plushy Feely Corp. • www.kimochis.com

Common Language

"Take the time to be kind": Never miss a chance to include and be kind to others
Use your eyes and ears to be kind: Look and listen for signs that someone is feeling left out and take the time to be kind and include them

Coach Inclusion During Daily Activities

- Acknowledge your child when they use their eyes and ears to notice that another child might not have the skills to join play on their own yet.
- Before playtime with siblings or peers, remind your child, "Remember to use your eyes and ears to be kind and notice if kids look like they want to be included."
- Try to notice a parent at school who is outside a conversation and bring them in. If your child notices your kindness, say how good it made you feel to include someone who was left out. And, if they did not witness this interaction, share this story with your child.

Family Fun: Playful Ways to Practice

- **WHAT'S MISSING?** Help your child notice things that are missing as a playful way to improve observation skills to use when noticing others' feelings. Together, collect items around the house (shoe, plate, magazine, block, pen, spoon). Place three items on the floor in front of you. Close your eyes. Tell your child to take an item and hide it behind him/her. Prompt him/her to say, *"Open your eyes. What's missing?"* After you guess, ask your child to close his/her eyes and do the same. Continue to play by increasing the number of items. Observation skills help one have good timing and read social cues.
- **WHO IS LEFT OUT?** Collect stuffed animals, action figures, or dolls. Close your eyes while your child hides all the toys except one. Tell your child to put the leftover toy in a designated place where you can't look. After you have found all the toys, try to remember which one was left out (the one you didn't find). Do the same with your child.
- **FRIEND SWEEP.** Encourage your child to use his/her eyes and ears to get as many children together at recess to play as possible. Have your child think of a game before school. Challenge him/her to invite a few kids and then notice anyone who is left out and invite them too.

YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND SHARE THIS PAGE
© 2014 Kimochis – Plushy Feely Corp. • www.kimochis.com