

# Typical Social Skills

Some children find it easy to make friends and get along with others, while other children may find it difficult. Each child's individual temperament and stage of development will affect their social skills.

## Typical Relationships with Other Children

**6-year-olds** pair up, have best friends and delight in keeping out a third child. Friendships are erratic and may change many times. They engage in lots of tattling and putting-down others. They like roughhouse play, which may go too far.

**7-year-olds** can be moody and are sensitive to what others say and do, but not what others think. They play easily with others and know when to stop boisterous play before someone gets hurt.

**8-year-olds** tend to have same sex friends and exclude the opposite sex in games and activities. They usually dislike playing alone. This age child is very social. Friends are very important to them, though they tend to be critical and judgmental of themselves and others. They love to gossip.

**9-year-olds** often enjoy solitary activities of their own choosing, but like to form and belong to clubs. They are concerned about clothing and appearance. This aged child can show consideration and fairness to peers and be very loyal to siblings.

**10-year-olds** like and enjoy their friends, both boys and girls. Children tend to form cliques at this age. Girls groups are usually smaller, their friendships are more intense and they have more serious "falling-outs." They often seem to value peers more than family.

**11-year-olds** have best friends and belong to a clique made up of peers with similar interests and temperaments. They can feel left out. Boys and girls admit to being interested in the opposite sex.