

SOCIALLY WITHDRAWN/ EXCESSIVE SHYNESS

Definition:

Frequently avoiding social events and playing with others, including peers.

Behavior:

Why could this be happening?

- Some children are shy by temperament.
- Children sometimes become shy in new situations or during times of change (such as a move, divorce, death in the family, etc.).
- If a child has had few experiences with peers, he/she may not know how to enter groups or play situations.

Typical Development:

- Children under age 3 often play alongside other children, rather than with them.
- Some children prefer to watch or observe before they begin an activity or enter a new situation.
- Children usually begin wanting to play with other children in the preschool years.

When to be Concerned:

- If behavior interferes with learning in a school or child care situation.
- If a child suddenly becomes traumatized or depressed.
- If a child doesn't speak in specific situations, but will speak in others.

Possible Resources:

Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Family Education, mental health professional