

# DIFFICULTY MAKING FRIENDS

## **Definition:**

The inability to make friends.

## **Behavior:**

### **Why could this be happening?**

- A child has limited experience with other children.
- A child needs help learning to enter a play situation or knowing how to keep play going.

## **Typical Development:**

- Children under age 3 often have difficulty playing with other children.
- Most children become more social as they move through the preschool years.
- Children become more able to share between the ages of 3 - 5.

## **When to be Concerned:**

- If other children fear a child or avoid playing with him/her.
- If a child purposely hurts other children.
- If a child doesn't have at least one friend.
- If a child needs significant adult help when playing with other children.
- If a child watches others play and seldom joins in the play.

## **Possible Resources:**

Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Family Education, preschool or child care, mental health professional

