

Kimochis

KIMOCHIS® HOMELINK Meet Huggtopus® and Learn How to Be Kind Partners

Your child has been introduced to the Kimochis® character Huggtopus®, or Huggs for short. Huggtopus® is very affectionate and strong. But, sometimes she gets a little carried away with her big, friendly personality. Huggtopus® sometimes hugs too tight or plays too rough which can upset her friends. This is confusing and frustrating to Huggtopus® because she doesn't know why her friends push her away or say, "Don't bother me." Your child is learning how to pay attention to social clues, such as facial expressions, body language and sounds from friends that are cues about playing too rough or silly. We have been discussing Huggs' primary feelings this week, Silly and Frustrated. Huggtopus® will help your child understand these feelings in him/her self and in others.

Children who have a temperament like Huggtopus® can have a hard time standing in line, sitting still for long periods of time or waiting to talk to an adult. Huggtopus® will help your child learn that it is helpful to know your strengths and weaknesses and just "Name It." For example, "I am getting way too loud." "Sorry, I get carried away." "Oops, I'm being a little bit like Huggtopus®."

When your child can notice that their behavior is not working for others, "Naming It" can help others be more patient and tolerant. Huggtopus also teaches us to "name" our differences. Huggs is different from other octopuses because she only has 6 legs! So, she confidently goes up to peers and says, "I have 6 legs."

Children learn that differences are okay and they begin to say things like, "I wear glasses." or "English is my second language." This communication tool (being able to "Name It") will make it less likely that a child will be teased or asked uncomfortable questions because of his/her differences.

Being partnered. When children are placed in partnerships, it can be emotional and complicated. The school-wide Kimochis® Kind Partner Rules help students pair up in a way that is not hurtful or embarrassing. This week your child learned that it is okay to have preferences for working partners. However, it is not okay to turn someone down or be unfriendly with your words, voice, face or actions when you are not paired with the classmate you hoped for. We are kind to everyone and do our best to work as a team!

* Kindergarteners learned that sometimes a hug can be too snug or that getting too close does not feel so good. Huggtopus® taught your child how to ask for a “just-right hug” or how to tell someone that a hug is “too-snug.” Reinforce this learning by telling your child that hugs are wonderful at the right time, in the right place and in the right way.

Kimochis® Family Challenge: Seek to connect and partner with people you don’t know well. For example, if you are walking with a group of parents, make it a point to walk with the parent who is the least familiar. Encourage your child to request play dates with classmates that they don’t know as well as others. This is a positive way to practice getting along with children they don’t know well.

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