Walking Too Close to Others

- **Picture 1:** Matt and Molly are at the zoo. They are on a field trip with their class.
- **Picture 2:** Matt is walking too close to his friend. Matt's arm is bumping into his friend's arm. **Oh no, that's wrong!** You don't walk that close to other people. You should walk an arm's length away.
- **Picture 3:** Molly is walking too close to her teacher. Molly's arm is bumping into her teacher's arm. **Oh no, that's wrong!** You don't walk that close to other people. You should walk an arm's length away.
- **Picture 4:** Matt and Molly are walking an arm's length away from each other so their arms don't bump. **Yes, that's right!** It is okay to walk next to someone if you are an arm's length away.

Yes/No Questions

- 1. Is Molly in this story?
- 2. Is Matt in this story?
- 3. Is a friend in this story?
- 4. Is an adult in this story?
- 5. Does the story take place at a farm?
- 6. Does the story take place at the zoo?
- 7. Does Matt walk too close to his friend?
- 8. Does Molly walk too close to her teacher?
- 9. Is it okay to bump arms when you are walking next to someone?
- 10. Is it better to walk an arm's length away from the person beside you?

Wh- and How Questions

- 1. Who is Matt walking next to in picture number two?
- 2. Who is Molly walking next to in picture number three?
- 3. What happens when you walk too close to someone?
- 4. What is your favorite zoo animal?
- 5. Where are Matt and Molly?
- 6. Where have you gone on a field trip?
- 7. When is the best time to go to the zoo?
- 8. When is it not good to go to the zoo?
- 9. Why is it annoying when someone is walking too close to you?
- 10. How far should you walk from someone?

Suggested Props

Zoo — sign that says ZOO, stuffed zoo animals Molly — red, pull-on skirt

Two signs that say **Oh no, that's wrong!** Friend — purple shirt

One sign that says **Yes, that's right!** Teacher — glasses

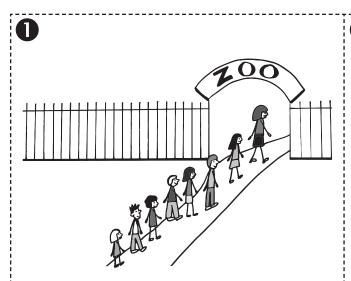
Matt — white T-shirt

Homework Sheet

Social Skill of the Week: Walking Too Close to Others

We practiced the above social skill using this four-picture Matt and Molly story. As you can see, the character in the story does the skill *wrong* two times before doing it right in the last picture.

- Cut the pictures apart. As you retell the story, ask your child to find the picture that you are describing. When all of the pictures are in sequential order, help your child act out the story.
- Reinforce "wrong vs. right." Ask your child questions about the story, such as "Is it right to bump arms when you walk next to someone?"
- Each week, after you review the story with your child, add picture number four to a little photo album. Title this book **The Right Way to Act**. You can refer to this picture when your child is in a similar social setting and needs reminding of the "right way" to act.



Matt and Molly are at the zoo. They are on a field trip with their class.



Matt is walking too close to his friend. Matt's arm is bumping into his friend's arm. **Oh no, that's wrong!** You don't walk that close to other people. You should walk an arm's length away.



Molly is walking too close to her teacher. Molly's arm is bumping into her teacher's arm. **Oh no, that's wrong!** You don't walk that close to other people. You should walk an arm's length away.



Matt and Molly are walking an arm's length away from each other so their arms don't bump.

Yes, that's right! It is okay to walk next to someone if you are an arm's length away.



Matt is walking too close to his friend. Matt's arm is bumping into his friend's arm. You don't walk that close to other people. You should walk an arm's length away.

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