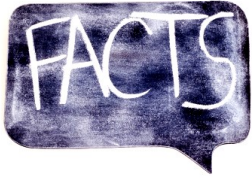




AIM: SOLVING PROBLEMS

OUR TARGET: We're focusing on keeping our kids out of trouble by talking to them about where trouble can happen, and how to deal with a problem by talking about it calmly.



Every day, over 200,000 kids are absent from school because they do not want to deal with a conflict they are having with classmates.

Teaching children about conflict resolution has a huge impact on the adults they will become and the future relationships they will have professionally and personally.

Children who can only get along with a few classmates, or a clique, need conflict resolution more than others. Power-grabbing behavior can lead to more aggressive, or even dangerous, behavior.

Targeting More Meaningful Parental Involvement

Leaps Correlations:
Conflict Resolution &
Where Problems Occur
For Beginners

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TEAM UP! Try these simple ideas to help your child want to talk.

Find a moment, right after school if you can, to ask your kids about their day. Ask about the best parts of the day first, then ask if anyone got in trouble during class. Hopefully your child wasn't the one that got in trouble, but if they were, stay calm and talk it out for now. Talk about how trouble can mean several different things.

TALKING TIPS to help you sit down and start the conversation...

BREAKING RULES: Whether we know why or not, rules are there for a reason. Our young kids have a hard time knowing "Why" a lot of the time but as parents we just need to let them know that there are GOOD reasons. Whether they understand the reasons for the rules or not, our kids need to know that NOT following the rules is a sure way to get in trouble... and sometimes a way to get hurt.

WRONG PLACES: Let your kids know that if they follow the rules they should always be where you're supposed to be. We need to keep our kids on track. If they are not where they are supposed to be then there is a good chance they could be in a harmful place... especially if no one has any way of knowing where they are.

ARGUING: A lot of rules include not fighting with others. This means our kids need to know how to work through differences in opinions with classmates. As parents, we need to always keep our cool with others to show our kids how this is done. If we are having a hard time getting along with our peers, our kids are going to take our lead and follow our example. This could cause them to think it is normal and healthy to stay in arguments with others.

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DECISION TIME: It's time to CHOOSE to work hard to follow the rules and not put ourselves in bad places. We get "butterflies" in our stomachs when we are about to do something wrong. This feeling is a gift and we need to tell our children to listen to it. As the adults in the arrangement, we need to decide to be good examples to our kids and closely follow the rules of the law and the rules of our workplaces, too.

GIVE IT A TRY! A chance to practice the target skills together at home:



Story Time!

Take a little time to read this story to your child. Sit and talk about how it makes sense when we're talking about staying calm, solving problems and being where we're supposed to be.

"The Hare and the Tortoise"



One day, the Hare was making fun of the Tortoise for being so slow at everything. "Do you ever get anywhere?" asked the Hare, as he was laughing in the Tortoise's face.

"Yes," answered the Tortoise, "and I get to where I'm going faster than you would think. I'll race you sometime to prove it."

The Hare thought it was so funny to even think of racing the Tortoise, but he agreed to the race. Fox, who agreed to be their judge, decided where the race would happen and started Hare and Tortoise on their race.

The Hare ran very fast and far ahead until he was out of sight of Tortoise. Just to make Tortoise feel ridiculous for even trying to race him, Hare found a tree and took a nap while he waited for Tortoise to catch up.

Tortoise stayed on the race course and kept going, slowly and steadily, until he came to the spot where he passed Hare taking a nap. Hare did not hear Tortoise passing him, so he slept on peacefully. When Hare woke up, Tortoise was so close to the finish line that, no matter how fast Hare ran, he could never catch up to win. Tortoise won the race!

Now talk about the following points with your child:

- The Hare lost because he took a nap and he was NOT where he was supposed to be.
- The Hare made fun of the Tortoise trying to start an argument and hurt the Tortoise's feelings.
- The Tortoise did NOT let the Hare make him angry.
- By following the rules, staying calm, and being where he was supposed to be the Tortoise did the right thing all the way through and ended up winning in the end.



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Stay On Target

Tips to help keep your child's new skills in action at home and school.

- Read all the notes that come home from your kid's teacher. If they ever say that your child got into trouble, STAY CALM. Getting into a yelling argument with your child will not teach them about how to calmly talk through problems!
- Chances are, if your child gets into trouble they either broke a rule, they weren't where they were supposed to be, or they were in a conflict with a classmate. FIND OUT and talk it through whenever it happens.