



Conflict Drill

A doll cuts in line - what should the line helper do?

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

Acting out cutting in line, waiting, and taking turns with dolls gives your child practice noticing a conflict, expressing an idea, and trying a simple solution.



Creativity

Studying a pretend conflict, considering how each character feels, and proposing a response gives your child practice using words or actions to solve a problem.

Steps

- Small conflicts are a normal part of playing with other children. Act one out with toys so your child can practice responding in a relaxed setting.
- Create a simple scene, such as dolls waiting for a turn on a slide. Have Dad suddenly move one doll to the front of the line. Your child may become upset.
- Mom can ask, "What happened?" Give your child time to describe what they saw.
- Then invite your child to be the referee: "What do you think we should do?" They may suggest, "One turn each. Now it's someone else's turn!"
- Acknowledge the idea and act on it by moving the dolls back into line.
- For a new challenge, have Dad make the doll refuse to listen at first. Pause and see what your child tries next.
- If your child cannot think of a response, offer one simple possibility, such as giving the dolls space to calm down or having them share a snack to ease the tension.

Tips

- As you make the conflict more challenging, watch your child's mood. If they become upset or begin to withdraw, simplify the scene so the game can stay relaxed.

Observations

- Suggests "one turn each" after seeing a doll cut in line
- Acts as the referee and proposes a way to resolve the dolls' conflict