Solutions for Small Conflicts

Pause during a small conflict and help your child try a solution.

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

Practicing a real peer conflict helps your child state a need, negotiate or trade, and try a simple way to resolve the problem.

Steps

- When your child has a conflict with another child, you may want to solve it immediately. Often, the children can try their own ideas first while you stay ready to help.
- For example, your child may put down a toy and walk away, then protest when another child picks it up: “That’s my toy!”
- Pause and observe before stepping in so your child has a chance to respond.
- If the conflict escalates and both children hold on to the toy, intervene calmly and explain that there are several ways to solve the problem.
- Ask for more time: “I’m still playing with it. You can have a turn when I’m finished.”
- Offer a trade if the other child brought a toy: “Would you like to trade? You can use my car while I use your plane.”
- If your child is not ready to share, help them put the toy away until they are ready.

Tips

- Stepping in too quickly - by taking the toy away or assigning turns - can reduce your child’s opportunity to practice resolving the problem. Observe first, then support only as much as the situation needs.

Observations

- ◯ Tries a strategy such as trading to resolve a conflict with another child
- ◯ Negotiates with another child to resolve a conflict