

Avoiding/Resolving Conflict

Month: Apr.

Week #: 33

Day: M - F Time: 30 min.

Squirms

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: review both conflict avoidance and resolution skills

Materials

slips of paper with 'squirms' written on them (see 'Computer Generated' for a printable list), hat or basket

Illustration

So there's this problem that is making the peace-sign-wearing girl 'squirm.' Her classmates are offering ideas. I wonder which solution she'll use?

Background

During the past school year, the students have learned various strategies and skills for either avoiding conflicts or resolving conflicts when they do occur. Like any skill, these skills need to be periodically practiced in order to remember and perfect them.



Prior to this activity, students should have some experience with acting in front of a group. If your class is inexperienced, you can always use

'people puppets' where you give the actors the words to say and tell them what to do.

While one play is going on, have another group off somewhere preparing for the next play. Each play will probably last about 5 minutes with follow-up discussion taking about the same amount of time. You'll probably have time for about three plays per day.

Group Activity

1. Say, "Today we're going to review your peace making skills in way that might make you squirm, at least a little bit, by playing a game called 'Squirms'. The way this game works is that a group of two or three volunteers select a slip of paper from this hat I'm holding. Written on these slips, or 'squirms', are real life 'sticky situations' or problems, that need to be solved. These are mostly situations that you would encounter here at school, like somebody teasing you or pushing you, etc. Your group will then have five minutes to go off by itself and prepare a two part skit. In the first act, you'll show a bad way of solving the squirm. When I say, 'bad' I mean a way where either emotional violence, like name calling, or physical violence, like hitting, is used. In the second act, you'll show a way of either preventing the conflict or resolving the conflict in a peaceful way. You'll then come back and share the skit with the class; after words we'll discuss how effectively you dealt with your squirm. When you perform the play, remember to use your drama skills, like facing the audience when you speak, speaking loudly and clearly, using dramatic gestures, etc."

Group Discussion Questions (To be discussed after each play)

1. What was different between act one and act two?

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

2. What were the consequences of using violence in the first act? Are there other negative consequences that could have happened in a real life situation?
3. Are there other possible solutions to this squirm?

Variations/Extensions

1. Leave Act Two solution-less, and have the actors take suggestions from the audience on how they could solve the squirm. Then the actors select and act out the one they liked the best.
2. Simply read the squirms aloud and ask the students how they would solve them. A lot more squirms can be covered this way, but a discussion isn't as memorable as a play.
3. Split the students into groups of two or three. Give each group a squirm to discuss and come up with as many different solutions to it as possible. Then have them share their solutions with the whole group, and have the whole group discuss any other possible solutions.

Conclusion

Say, "In life, you're going to encounter some tough situations, or squirms, that you're going to need to help resolve. The way you prevent and solve those conflicts will not only have a great impact on your life, but it will affect other's lives as well."

Squirms

Note: Select those squirms that your classroom has been having difficulty solving.

You see another student writing on the bathroom wall with a permanent marker. What do you do?

You're out on the playground, and some other students are throwing rocks at a squirrel. What do you do?

While playing on the playground, another student gets angry at you because you are teasing him. In his anger, he punches you in the stomach. What do you do?

One student is picking on another student, and the picked on student doesn't stand up for himself. What should you do?

You hear your friend tell a lie to the teacher to get herself out of trouble. What should you do?

Another student keeps sitting in the same place, day after day. You'd also like to sit there and think it's unfair that that student always gets the same spot! What do you do?

A strange man that you've never seen before keeps hanging around the playground. What should you do?

Your friend, who is sitting next to you, keeps tapping his or her pencil and humming... It's driving you crazy! What do you do?

During lunch, a friend grabbed your sandwich and started flying it over the table like a plane. What do you do?

After getting up to get a tissue, you find someone has taken your sitting place at group time. What do you do?

You hear other students telling jokes and making fun of someone else's religion. What do you do?

A boy and girl that used to be good friends are no longer sitting together because some other students started calling them 'lovers'. What do you do?

Two of your friends are no longer talking to each other because they're mad at each other. It's been going on for two days. What do you do?

You saw another student go into another student's cubby and take something without asking. What do you do?

Your best friend says he/she won't like you anymore if you spend time with another student that your best friend happens to not like. What do you do?

On the playground an older, larger student is picking on a younger, smaller student. What do you do?

You see a friend cheating on a work, or test, by copying down the answers. What do you do?

You're trying to get your work done, but another student keeps bothering you. What do you do?

Another student is having a really bad day. Nothing seems to be going right for him and he's on the verge of tears. What can you do?

Another student is having a really bad day. Nothing seems to be going right for her. She's really frustrated and angry. In fact, she's taking her anger out on you by calling you names and being rude. What can you do?

You've lost your mechanical pencil and another student has one that looks exactly like yours. What do you do?

When you go out to recess, nobody wants to play with you. What do you do?

When it's time to line up, another student always cuts, or budges, in line. What do you do?

Another student has brought a knife to school. What do you do?

Another younger student likes you a lot. He follows you around all the time and always want to be with you. You like him, but you also like to be with your other friends. What do you do?

A friend brought some medicine to school that she got out of her parent's medicine cabinet. She says she's going to take some just for fun because it tastes good, but she can't get the lid off the bottle. If you help, she says that you can have some too! What do you do?

Avoiding/Resolving Conflict: Squirms



**So, there's this problem that is making the peace-sign-wearing girl 'squirm.'
Her classmates are offering ideas. I wonder which solution she'll use?**

*Lucas
Beneish
10/12/09*

Avoiding/Resolving Conflict

Objectives/Aims

By the end of this unit, your child will review both conflict avoidance and resolution skills.

Background Information for Parents

During the past school year, the students have learned various strategies and skills for either avoiding conflicts or resolving conflicts when they do occur. Like any skill, these skills need to be periodically reviewed and practiced in order to remember and perfect them.

Conflict is presented to the students as a natural part of life and is not considered inherently good or bad in and of itself. It's how we choose to deal with conflict that makes it good or bad. Hopefully, we will choose to deal with it in a nonviolent, constructive manner that heals and brings people together rather than choosing ways that cause pain and push people away.



Day 1

1. In the illustration above, the peace-sign-wearing girl is having having problems with the boy, Number 7, who keeps teasing her. How is boy in the middle suggesting that she solve her problem?

What would be the possible consequences if she chose this solution? -----

2. Instead of using violence, list four possible ways that she could solve this problem with the boy Number 7, perhaps in such a way that they could even end up being friends. :)

1. -----

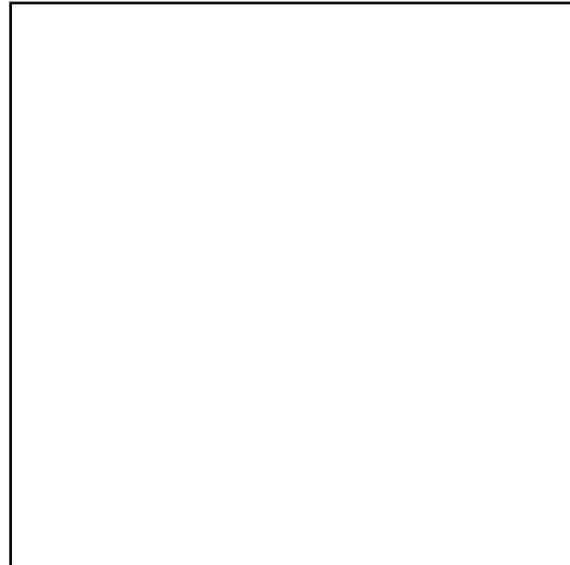
2. -----

3. -----

4. -----

Day 2

1. Draw a picture in the box at right that shows a situation that can cause conflict at your home. Think about what causes this problem and how it could be solved in a positive or good way. Now show this picture to your parent/s and decide the best way to solve it. Write the solution here:



Day 3

1. Listed below are a series of 'squirms'. These squirms are real life 'sticky situations' or problems that need to be solved in a nonviolent, constructive manner that heals and brings people together. Discuss with your parents each of these situations and come up with three possible solutions for each one.

- * Your best friend says he/she won't like you anymore if you spend time with another friend that your best friend happens to not like. What do you do?
- * In your neighborhood an older, larger child is picking on a younger, smaller child. What do you do?
- * Your mom, dad, brother or sister, is having a really bad day. Nothing seems to be going right for him/her. He/she is really frustrated, angry or sad. What can you do?
- * You hear other children in your neighborhood telling jokes and making fun of someone else's religion. What do you do?
- * You're at the park with your family and some other children are throwing rocks at a duck. What do you do?
- * A strange man that you've never seen before keeps hanging around your house and neighborhood. What should you do?
- * A younger brother, sister or friend likes you a lot. He/she follows you around all the time and always want to be with you. You like him/her, but you also like to be with your other family members or friends. What do you do?