

Avoiding Conflict: Week 2

Month: Sept.

Week #: 5

Day: e. Fri. Time: 45 min.

Including Others

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: gain empathy for how it feels to be excluded, learn how to include others that are different or whose behavior may have been inappropriate in the past.

Materials

none

Illustration

Number 7 looks like he wants to be included in their card trading game. In the middle, top, he looks upset because he's been excluded... But wait! It looks like there might be a happy ending after all!



Background

Humans, by their very nature, are social beings. We need to be part of a group. When a student cannot find a place within a social group, when they feel excluded, they are generally very unhappy.



August 4, 2009
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Group Activity

1. Say, "I want you to close your eyes... Now imagine that you're on the playground and you want to join a

group of classmates who are playing a really neat game... They say, "No! Go away!". Okay, now you can open your eyes. By a show of hands, how many of you felt sad when you were excluded (excluded means that they didn't want you to be part of their group)? ...angry? Any other feelings?

2. Say, "Humans, by their very nature, are social beings. We need to be part of a group. When a person cannot find a place within a social group, when they feel excluded, they are generally very unhappy. We are now going to do some people puppet plays to figure out the best way that we can include our classmates."

3. Play 1

A group of older students are in the middle of playing a soccer game and a younger student with less ability wants to play.

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why would a younger student want to play with older students?

A: He admires older students and want to be like them.

- What would be the right thing to do?

A: Ask the younger student to wait until the next game so that the teams can be made fair.

A: Suggest that he go find some other friends that are equal to his ability and play with them.

A: Allow the younger student to play by giving him a position commensurate with his skill level.

Play 2

A group of students are playing a tag game. Another student wants to join in, but whenever he joins in, he plays really rough and other students get hurt.

Group Discussion Questions:

- What could you do to include this person and still ensure that everybody is safe?

A: Invite him to join, but if he plays rough, then he can't play anymore.

A: Be very clear in the expectations for his behavior.

Variation:

- Use the same situation, but instead he cheats, loses his temper, etc.

3. Play 3

Two girls are sitting at a two-person table and third girl wants to join them. The first girl whispers to the other that if she invites the third girl to join them, she won't be her friend anymore. (The third girl hasn't made any close friends, and she desperately wants to do so.)

Group Discussion Questions:

- Is there any reason why the first girl might want to intentionally exclude this girl?

A: She's jealous. The other girl is her best friend and she's afraid somebody will take her place.

- Is it possible to have more than one friend, even if you have a best friend?

A: Yes.

- What could you say to an insecure friend who is afraid of losing you?

A: I can still be your friend, even if I have other friends.

A: We'll have more fun if we let more people into our group.

- If the jealous girl decides to be strong and let the third girl be part of their group, how can they include her if there's only room for two people?

A: All of the girls could move to a three person table.

A: Invite her to sit in close proximity to them.

A: Say that since there isn't room at the table, they can plan to eat snack or lunch together, or plan to play together during recess.

Play 4

You notice a new student, or a rather shy student, is always sitting and doing things by himself.

Group Discussion Questions:

- How do you think this student is feeling?

A: Sad, because he doesn't have any friends.

- How would you want to be treated in this situation?

A: I would want to be invited to join in, to be included.

- What are some ways that you include this student?

A: Invite them to work near you, play with you at recess, sit with you at snack, etc.

Play 5

A group of boys are playing a game. A girl approaches saying that she would like to play. One of the boys begins to invite her to play, but another boy interrupts him saying, "Eww, we don't want to get girl germs!"

Group Discussion Questions:

- Is it appropriate to exclude somebody because of the color of their skin? ...their gender? ...their religion?

A: To dislike somebody simply because of their appearance or beliefs is considered prejudice and is unacceptable in our culture. When it comes to someone else's beliefs, one can disagree with them without being disagreeable.

Conclusion

Say, "Humans, by their very nature, are social beings. We need to be part of a group. When a person cannot find a place within a social group, or when they feel excluded, they are generally very unhappy. Raise your hand if you are willing to go out of your way to make sure everybody in our classroom feels included."



The number 7 boy looks like he wants to be included in the card trading game. In the middle, top, he looks upset because he's been excluded... But wait! It looks like there might be a happy ending after all!