

Conflict Resolution

Month: Oct.

Week #: 6

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 min.

Good & Bad Words

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Objectives/Aims

The students will: realize that words can emotionally hurt another person; they will also recognize the difference between good and bad words.

Materials

none

Illustration

What are the boy and girl saying to IKE, the Invisible Kid? How is he reacting? Is it true that "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?"



Background

'Good' words tell us that others like us, encourage us to do more or better, and help us feel better about ourselves. 'Bad' words do just the opposite: they tear us down, make us feel bad, and hurt us.

Group Activity

1. Ask the students, by a show of hands, if they believe the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

2. Ask them to imagine that there is an imaginary student called Ike the Invisible Kid sitting in the middle of the circle or at the front of the class.

3. You, the teacher, use all sorts of 'bad' words when talking to the student. For example:

- "Ike, you are so stupid. I've never met anyone quite as dumb as you."
- "If I looked like you I'd want to put a bag over my head!"
- "You're not my friend. Nobody likes you!"
- "Fatso." "Chicken." "Baby."

Group Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Ike feels right now?

A: Sad, hurt or angry.

2. How would you feel if you were Ike?

A: Sad, hurt or angry.

3. Have any of you ever had a personal experience of other people calling you names, cutting you down, or saying bad words to you? How did it feel?

4. What's worse: being 'cut down' or 'dissed' with words or being physically hurt?

A: Most students will answer that being physically hurt is worse than being psychologically or

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

emotionally hurt. This can be true depending on the severity and the circumstances of the physical abuse. However, they don't realize that hurtful words can remain with us long after a physical wound has healed and can affect both our self esteem and emotional state for many years to come.

5. By a show of hands, how many of you now believe the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?"

A: Discuss whether or not this saying is true.

Variations/Extensions

Conclusion

Say, "Maybe there are some people that are so strong and self-confident that 'bad' words truly don't hurt them. For most of us though, 'bad' words hurt. They can hurt us deeply and we can remember the hurtful experience well into the future. So chose words that build up your friends, not cut them down."

Conflict Resolution: Good & Bad Words



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