

Conflict Resolution

Month: Oct.

Week #: 7

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 min.

Peace Conferences: Introduction

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: memorize the peacemaking poem and be introduced to how a peace conference works.

Materials

a poster with the peacemaking poem written on it (See "Computer Generated"), rug or designated area

Illustration

What are these two students doing?
They started out having a fight, then they had a discussion of some sort and finally ended up being friends! I wonder how they did that?



Background

When words have failed to solve the problem, it's time to have a Peace Conference. A Peace Conference puts the responsibility for solving a problem back on the students. If this process fails or if a younger student is intimidated by an older student, the teacher or a trained older student can offer to be a mediator in the Peace Conference.

At first glance, the Peace Conference

format may seem too simplistic to solve conflicts. However, the beauty of the Peace Poem is due, in large part, to its simplicity. First, because it is simple, even young students can remember the process. Secondly, in the heat of an argument, complex processes are often forgotten. Thirdly, because the peace conferencing process is cyclical (in that it can go back and forth a number of times), it can handle the most complicated of conflicts.

Group Activity

1. Come to the group very angry and upset saying you tried to use words with your friend, but it didn't work. Your friend still didn't listen to you. Maybe you should go back and punch him in the nose, or go tattle to a teacher... But both of those ideas would be wrong! What to do!?
2. Say, "If you tried using words to solve a problem and it didn't work, it's time to have a 'Peace Conference.' A Peace Conference uses many techniques you've already learned (active listening, 'I' statements, saying you're sorry) and puts them all together. To remember how to do a Peace Conference, we use a poem." Hold up the poster and teach them the following peacemaking poem by 'lining it out' (you say a line and then the students repeat it after you):

State the problem with an I,
Active listening if you try.
Solve the problem if you can,
Being friends is the plan!

Group Activity (continued)

3. Say, "Now I'm going to show you how to use this peace poem." Choose two volunteers to be 'people puppets.' Say, "Watch and listen carefully to how these two solve their problem."

4. Here's the background of the play:

John and Harry were mad at each other. They had tried to use words, but that didn't work. John went to the teacher to ask for a Peace Conference. Both Harry and he knew that this wasn't tattling because he wasn't trying to get Harry in trouble. He simply wanted to solve the problem and keep Harry as his friend.

John: [to you, the teacher] Harry and I have a problem to work out. Can we please have a Peace Conference?

Teacher: Have you both cooled down enough to solve your problem?

John: Yes.

Teacher: Okay, then find a quiet, private place, get out the Peace Rug, and the two of you can have a Peace Conference. [John and Harry go get the rug and sit facing each other with their legs crossed.]

John: I don't remember the first step in the peacemaking poem. Maybe somebody in the class can help me. [Call on someone in the class to give the first step: State the problem with an I.] Oh yeah, thanks. I don't like it when people say my pinewood derby car looks like it came from a junkyard. It really makes me mad.

Harry: [thoughtfully scratching his head] Let's see if I remember correctly. The second verse is, 'Active listening if you try.' That's right! Okay, it really hurt your feelings when I made fun of your car.

John: [nodding] Yes, it did.

Teacher: [to the class] Now what's the next step in the peace making poem? (A: 'Solve the problem if you can').

Harry: I'm sorry I made fun of your car. I was just trying to make a joke. I guess it wasn't very funny. I won't do it again.

Teacher: The last step is: 'Being friends is the plan.'

John: [reaches over and shakes Harry's hand] I accept your apology.

[They walk off together arm and arm].

Group Discussion Questions

1. Is asking for a Peace Conference tattling?

A: No. Why? A: (what was said in the play)

2. What should you do first before you have a Peace Conference?

A: Cool down.

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

3. Where do you have a Peace Conference?

A: In a quiet, private place.

4. What are the four steps in having a Peace Conference?

5. How did John indicate that Harry had correctly heard him?

A: Nodding his head and answering, "Yes, it did."

Conclusion

Say, "Remember, when words haven't worked it's time to have a Peace Conference. Hopefully, the two of you will be able to solve the problem and remain friends."

Oct. 7 b. Tues.

Conflict Resolution: Peace Conferences: Introduction



What are these two students doing? They started out having a fight, then they had a discussion of some sort and finally ended up being friends! I wonder how they did that?

PEACE CONFERENCE



Four Steps to Friendship:
(Be sure to **cool down** first!)

Step 1.

State the problem with an I,

- * Say, "I don't like it when people...."
- * Don't forget to tell them how it makes you feel!

Step 2.

Active listening if you try.

- * Say, "So you don't like it when..."



Step 3. Solve the problem if you can,

- * Remember to take responsibility for your actions!
- * Say you're sorry if you made a mistake.
- * How can you keep this problem from happening again?

Step 4. Being friends is the plan!

- * Smiling, shaking hands or hugging means you've solved the problem and remained friends!



July 7
2009
Lucas
Boris-
Holmes

Conflict Resolution

Objectives/Aims

By the end of this unit, your child will memorize the peacemaking poem and know how to conduct a successful peace conference.

Background Information for Parents

When words have failed to solve the problem, it's time to have a Peace Conference. A Peace Conference puts the responsibility for solving a problem back on the child. If this process fails or if a younger child is intimidated by an older child, the parent or a trained older sibling can offer to be a mediator in the Peace Conference. This process can also work to resolve a conflict between a parent and child.



At first glance, the Peace Conference format may seem too simplistic to solve conflicts. However, the beauty of the Peace Poem is due, in large part, to its simplicity. First, because it is simple, even young children can remember the process. Secondly, in the heat of an argument, complex processes are often forgotten.

Thirdly, because the peace

conferencing process is cyclical (in that it can go back and forth a number of times), it can handle the most complicated of conflicts.

Day 1

1) Before you ask your parents to have a Peace Conference with a brother, sister, friend or another adult, what do you need to do?

2) Is it okay to ask your parent or an older sibling to be a mediator? _____

Day 2

1) From memory, recite the Peace Poem to your parents. P.I. _____

2) Explain to your parents what each stanza (section) of the peace poem means. P.I. _____

Day 3

1) If it's okay with your parents, find a place to hang up the attached PEACE CONFERENCE poster in a private place and teach the rest of your family members how to do a peace conference.

P.I. _____