

In this lesson, preschool or kindergarten students will demonstrate an understanding of activities that promote personal fitness, health, nutrition, and safety by showing evidence of the ability to...make healthy choices in real or simulated situations including interpersonal conflict. The goal of this lesson is for the children to demonstrate methods of solving conflicts themselves. Students will apply what they have learned in everyday conflicts. First, with adult's guidance, and then progressing to resolving issues themselves. This lesson will help children to think about possible ways to resolve problems that may occur to them, and their classmates or friends apply the resolutions.

Grade Level: PreK-K

Prior Knowledge: the Alphabet

Concept: ABCD Method of Conflict Resolution

Instructional Objectives: to recognize the ABCD model of conflict resolution and use it to solve conflicts in simulated circumstances. (Over the course of a year, students will apply this in everyday conflicts, first with an adult's guidance, and eventually without adult intervention. The overarching goal is for students to demonstrate methods of peacefully solving conflicts themselves.)

Materials:

*Oh, Bother! Someone's Fighting!* by Nikki Grimes; illus. Darrell Baker. New York: Golden Books, 1991.

Poster of ABCD problem solving song by Heather Hanson

Tape or another way to post it for all to see

Small toy in a paper bag

Procedures:

*Introduction*

Tell the children: "This is something that can happen to everyone. And when it happens, it makes us feel sad. Often, we don't know what to do. Today we are going to learn about what to do if we get into a fight. To help us remember what we learn, we'll have a story, a song, and even a little play. The letters of the alphabet will help us remember, too."

*Learning Activities*

- "Let's begin with the story." Read *Oh, Bother! Someone's Fighting!* up to the page right before Pooh comes in. (The pages are not numbered.) The cue is Eeyore saying: "I wish I knew how to make everyone happy." Tell children, "I have some ideas for Eeyore."
- Display the poster. Give a vocal introduction, then sing through the whole song, explaining it line-by-line. Then return to each step of the method, relating it to the story. For example, "The first thing to do is to ask, 'What's the problem?' What is the problem in the story? [Students offer answers.] Right; the problem is that Rabbit and Tigger are fighting about what Eeyore should do." Continue through the song this way.
- Finish reading the book. Compare the student's opinions of what should be done to what actually happens in the book. There's a good chance it will not; use this to demonstrate that there are many ways to solve a problem, not just one.
- Tell children, "Let's sing this song again, to help us remember it." Make sure to ask children, "What might happen if we spread our arms on 'Hooray,'<sup>1</sup> and we're really close to each other?" Have children offer the solution of spreading out so they don't "conk" each other, as one preschooler/kindergartner said! Sing through the song a few more times, adding the claps and other "frills."

### *Conclusion*

- Choose two students to come to the front for a short "play." Have both put their hands on the toy. Ask, "What's the problem?" Guide students to say, "They both want the toy."
- Continue the review by saying, "The next step is to think, 'What should we do?' What should [Bobby] and [Susan] do to solve their problem?" Continue through the steps of the ABCD method. The poster should be easily visible for student reference. When the students have worked out an acceptable solution for the toy dilemma, thank the actors and tell them they can sit down. Be sure to put the toy out of eyesight (in a paper bag) to prevent distraction.
- This also serves as an evaluation; students should be telling the teacher what to do. The teacher should just guide the conversation with questions. If group response is strong, remove the poster and ask students to produce the steps of the method from memory. The teacher will want to write the letters "A B C D" on the chalkboard to aid them.
- Tell students that the poster will be hung in the classroom. Just as they solved Pooh's problem and the students' toy problem using this problem-solver, they can use it when they have a problem. Offer, "Anytime you have a problem and you need help working it out, you can come to me, and I will help you make it better. I'll show you how to use the ABCD problem solving song."

### *Extension*

Teach the children the echo parts of the ABCD problem solving song.

### Song

You gotta ask (clap)  
You gotta think (clap)  
You gotta choose (clap)

Have students echo and then sing together.