

Conflict Resolution With Young Children

Adapted from The Giving Tree School by Betsy Evans

Strategies for Responding to Problems and Conflicts in the Early Childhood Classroom



Approach Calmly

- Place yourself at the child's level
- Use a calm voice and a gentle touch

Acknowledge Children's Feelings

- Name and describe the children's feelings **(Very important in learning to identify feelings and what words to use)**
"You seem angry because you are yelling and hitting."
- Avoid asking questions until children are calmer

Gather Information

- For children with language delays, observe children's actions and describe the problem
- Ask "what" questions

Restate the Problem

- **Repeat again the problem you have observed or heard**

Ask for Children's Ideas for Solutions and Choose One Together

- **If the children have a language delay, describe the choices or solution that you see happening**
- **If children are old enough and developed enough, ask them for ideas and agreements**

Give Follow-Up Support

- **Stay nearby to support the solution**
- **Tell the children, "You solved the problem!"**