

## THREE WAYS TO SOLVE A CONFLICT

**DURATION:** 20 minutes

**OBJECTIVE:** ● To become aware of and learn to recognize three common conflict resolution styles.

**MATERIALS:** ● Copies of *Three Ways to Solve a Problem* (See *Classroom Handouts, Grade 3 - p. 2.*)

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Review: Ask students to share their playground observations—the conflicts that they observed.
2. Tell students that there are two common ways that people use to cope with conflicts and that they are going to “spot” the ways in the conflict pictures.
3. Distribute copies of *Three Ways to Solve a Problem*. Have students look at the bottom picture of the two whispering girls. Ask them to describe what they see happening. Explain that sometimes when people are upset, they don’t say what is bothering them. They pretend that there is no problem or that they are not feeling upset. We call that “avoidance.”
4. Show them the picture of children using “aggression” (the top picture of two boys fighting over a book). Again, ask them to tell what is happening in the picture. Explain that when there is a conflict, a person who is hurt or angry may try to solve the problem by hitting, pushing or yelling at the other person. We call this “aggression.”
5. Explain to students that although avoidance and aggression are common ways people use to solve conflicts, there is another way. It’s called “problem solving.” Problem solving happens when people admit they have a problem and try to think of many ways to solve it without hurting or yelling at the other person.
6. Ask a student to help you demonstrate problem solving. Use the scenario of 2 children fighting over a book and do a role play showing how children could solve the problem by:
  - Admitting that they both want it .
  - Brainstorming ways to each get what they need: read

it together; one reads it for 5 minutes and then gives it to the other; one of them chooses a different book; both choose different books.

- Agreeing on a solution.

7. Explain that they will be learning how to use problem-solving to manage their conflicts.

**REINFORCEMENT:**

1. Point out styles used by different characters in stories.
2. Ask students to observe a conflict on the playground, at home, or on a TV program and notice which of the three styles are used to deal with it. Discuss their observations the next day.
3. On an ongoing basis, whenever students report a conflict they observed or participated in, ask them which style was used.
4. Post a chart with the names of the three styles to remind students what they are.

**Three Ways to Solve a Problem**

