

The Teacher's Role in Helping Young Children Develop Social Problem-Solving Skills

ACT AGAINST VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

<http://www.ActAgainstViolence.org>

SOCIAL PROBLEM SOLVING- HANDOUT 3



Families and teachers are the primary role models and teachers of young children. The teacher's role involves the following steps:

1. Intervene calmly to help children stop hurtful language or actions.
 2. Acknowledge children's feelings; helping them identify their feelings and the feelings of others.
 3. Gather information from the children about the nature of the conflict by listening carefully to what the children have to say.
 4. Restate the problem for the children and asking them to pose possible solutions.
 5. Help the children select a solution together.
 6. Offer the children follow-up help and support as needed.
- Teachers can also:*
7. Model, by thinking out loud, using puppets or role-plays to illustrate how to solve problems in respectful, constructive ways.
 8. Help young children recognize strong feelings in themselves and others.
 9. Help children learn to express feelings in socially appropriate nonaggressive ways.
 10. Help children see things from another person's point of view or perspective.
 11. Help children learn empathy and compassion by becoming aware of the feelings of others and responding to these feelings with caring, concern, and respect.
 12. Select age-appropriate social problem-solving skills for children to learn.
 13. Teach and model specific, selected, developmentally appropriate social problem-solving skills.
 14. Provide coaching and support to help children learn each social problem-solving skill.
 15. Identify real-life situations that permit children to apply the skills.
 16. Build a repertoire of social problem-solving skills by adding new skills as previously introduced skills are mastered.
 17. Give children many opportunities to practice thinking of solutions, anticipating consequences, and evaluating the harmfulness of aggressive solutions and the benefit of nonaggressive ones.
 18. Communicate with families and work as a team to build social problem-solving skills with support and practice of the skills at home in addition to the classroom.

Adapted from High Scope Foundation training module *Supporting Children in Resolving Conflicts*.