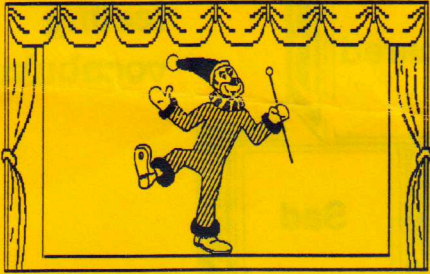
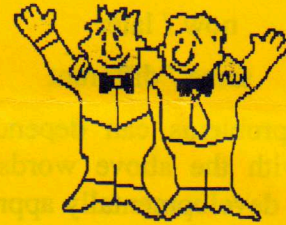


# CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



Conflict is the drama  
of life ~ Embrace it.  
Children do want to get  
along.



## Five Steps

and

## Five Techniques

- ✓ Let stressors evolve through play.



- ✓ Get Agreement on ground rules and encourage non-defensive communication.



- ✓ Stop and take stock.

- ✓ Define the problem, e.g., "The problem is there is only one toy and two children who want to play with it." Make sure all points of view are aired and understood by all.



- ✓ Redefine issues, e.g., "us vs. the problem" rather than "us vs. them".



- ✓ Recognize and congratulate conciliatory gestures and credit generosity. Notice "put ups" vs. "put downs" and point out empathetic feelings.



- ✓ Ask for suggestions from all group members. In the case of no child-generated suggestions make some of your own, giving options to choose among.

- ✓ Identify feelings by asking "How did that make you feel?" Point out if a look is different from the feeling being expressed.



- ✓ Clear suggestions with opponents until settled.



- ✓ Observe and comment.

## Word Pairs for Problem Solving

is / is not  
 and / or  
 some / all  
 before / after  
 now / later  
 same / different

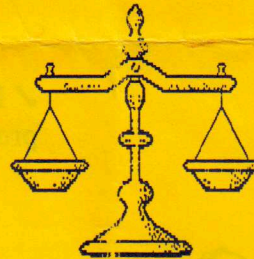
Solving problems can depend on familiarity with the above words and concepts. Be developmentally appropriate.



Build a feeling vocabulary

### **long-Term Benefits** of practicing conflict resolution

- ★ Increased self-esteem and independence.
- ★ An environment with less stress and fewer fights that is more conducive to learning and working.
- ★ Children learn how to get along with others and solve their own problems, freeing the teacher from playing the role of referee.
- ★ Better understanding of others.
- ★ More enthusiasm, fun, and harmony, which makes for increased productivity and learning.



### **long-Term Costs** of not doing conflict resolution

- ★ Increased absenteeism and physical health problems.
- ★ Wasted time because the conflict keeps coming up.
- ★ Reduced quality of learning and reduced productivity.
- ★ Increased apathy and lowered motivation.
- ★ Performance problems that undermine academic achievement.
- ★ A more stressful environment in which the teacher is called on to settle conflicts instead of teaching.

## Continuum of Conflict Resolution Methods

