

Principle of Teaching in Conflict Situations

- 1) Take responsibility for children's safety.
- 2) Use non-verbal methods to calm children.
- 3) Validate all children's feelings/perceptions of the conflict.
- 4) Help verbalize feelings/desires; help children listen to each other.
- 5) Clarify and state the problem.
- 6) Give children the opportunity to suggest solutions.
- 7) Propose solutions when children do not have ideas; saying "I'm sorry" is **not** the only possibility.
- 8) Uphold the value of mutual agreement; provide support to keep the conversation going.
- 9) Teach impartial solutions for settling disputes when a decision is arbitrary.
- 10) When both children lose interest in a conflict, do not pursue it.
- 11) Help children recognize their responsibility in causing the conflict.
- 12) Offer the opportunity for restitution.
- 13) Help children repair the relationship, but do not force children to be insincere.
- 14) Encourage children to solve their own conflicts.
- 15) If children are fighting over a toy, and you cannot determine who had it first, **you** hold the toy and facilitate a discussion about its use. You may have to offer suggestions if children cannot generate ideas. When both children agree on the solution, then the conflict is resolved. Remember to stay with the children until resolution is achieved.