



Visual Support Guide: Problem-solving Kit

What?

The “problem-solving kit” is a visual support with images that represent possible solutions to social problems, such as two children wanting to use a same toy.

Why?

- Learning to solve problems and conflicts with others is an important social-emotional skill for young children. As children work together to find a solution to a problem, they learn about other points of view and negotiate a solution that works for everyone. Using visual supports can help children identify potential solutions to try out.
- You can use the problem-solving kit in different ways.
 - Help children generate solutions to common conflicts that happen often in early learning environments.
 - Support a child who needs extra help when addressing conflicts and solving problems with other children.

How?

- Make a problem-solving kit.
 - Print, laminate, and cut into individual cards. Translate the actions into the languages spoken by the children in your program or make separate versions for each language.
 - Keep the cards in a container in a location that children can access easily.
 - Create a special problem-solving kit with the problem-solving visuals and different items to support problem-solving, such as a small timer, a “help” symbol, a “wait” symbol, or social stories.
 - Or create a “peace wall” with different problem-solving and regulation strategy visuals posted at child level. Teach children that they can go there to find and try strategies if there is a problem or a conflict.
- Use the problem-solving kit.
 - Talk about the visuals with children during large or small group time. Discuss examples of social conflicts that commonly occur in the learning environment and how the cards show ideas that can help solve the problem.
 - Invite children to practice the ideas on the card or demonstrate using puppets or dolls. Consider introducing the use of a timer for waiting and taking turns.
 - Explain that children can go to the problem-solving kit any time they have a problem. They can look at the pictures of different solutions and decide together which solution might work to solve their problem. Be ready to provide reminders and additional support as needed to encourage children to access and use the kit.

Problem Solving Kit

Ask Nicely



Trade



Wait Patiently for a Turn



Eeny Meeny Miney Mo



Let's Play Together

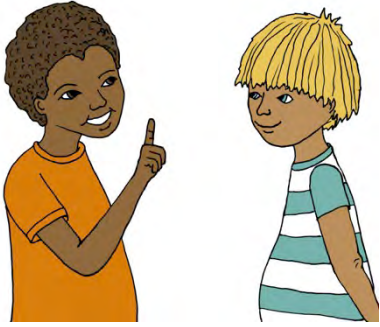


Make a New Choice



Problem Solving Kit

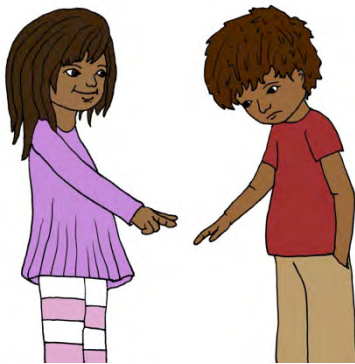
1 More Minute



Waiting 1 minute



Rock, Paper, Scissors



Sand Timer



Set a Timer



Playing Using Sand Timer



Problem Solving Kit

Take a Break



Take a Break

