

PROBLEM SOLVING

Lesson 29

SOCIAL SKILL

Using Problem-Solving Strategies

Behavioral Objective: The children will think of alternatives to a problem and decide on the best one.

Directed Lesson:

1. **Establish the Need:** Establish the fact that problem solving will build success academically and socially by restricting the number of conflicts, thereby increasing learning time. When children try to resolve their own conflicts, they become more self-sufficient and it frees the teacher to work with children in an atmosphere designed for learning.

2. **Introduction:** Read this poem to the class:

Problems, problems every day.
Solve them in a friendly way.
Do we talk or do we fight?
Try to do whatever's right.
If we talk the problem out,
We won't have to yell and shout.
If we solve it on our own,
We will feel that we have grown.

3. **Identify the Skill Components:** (List on board before class)

1. Identify the problem.
2. Identify different ways to solve it.
3. Find out what can happen after trying each solution.
4. Decide what is the best thing to do.
5. If it doesn't work, learn to try another solution.

4. **Model the Skill:** Teacher models the five skill steps and decides what to try as a solution when the door to the room is stuck.

5. **Behavioral Rehearsal:**

- A. **Selection:** Teacher will select two *pairs* of children and two *individual* children to role play.

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- B. *Role Play:* The two *pairs* of children will role play solving the following problems: (1.) having one ruler between them; (2.) wanting to take the same book from the library. The two *individual* children will role play: (1.) trying to find a quiet place to do homework; (2.) what to do if they accidentally tear their paper with handwritten notes.
 - C. *Completion:* After each role play, reinforce correct behavior, identify inappropriate behaviors, and reenact role play with corrections. If there are no corrections, role play is complete.
 - D. *Reinforcers:* Praise children who were able to think of positive solutions to the problems they were given. Make badges that say: "I'm a problem solver" and distribute them to the class.
 - E. *Discussion:* Children should discuss what alternative solutions they can use to solve the problems from the role plays.
6. *Practice:* Give children copies of the following activity sheet, "Find the Best Solution," to complete in class.
7. *Independent Use:*
- A. Discuss the way that a T.V. character was able to solve a problem without fighting.
 - B. Discuss what school problems the children were able to solve during the previous week.
8. *Continuation:* Teachers should encourage children to come up with their own creative solutions to conflicts as related situations arise.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Brown, Marc, *Arthur's Teacher Trouble*. New York: Joy Street Books, 1989.