

## PROBLEM SOLVING

Learning how to solve problems is an important skill to have. Many conflicts could be handled by the child, if they had good problem solving skills, without ever having to ask an adult for help.

To learn problem solving skills have the child first decide if this is a small problem or a big problem. If it is a small problem the child should pick 2 solutions to try first. Then if that doesn't stop the problem that is when they go to an adult for help.

### Small problems:

A student is –

Teasing you

Cheating at kickball

Calling you names

Borrowing your school supplies without asking

Making noises while you are trying to work

Cutting in line

Not sharing

Looking at you funny

### Strategies to try: (Pick 2)

Go to another game or activity

Share and take turns

Respectfully talk it over and listen to each other

Walk away from the problem

Ignore the problem behavior

Tell the person to stop the problem behavior

Apologize

Make a deal or compromise

Wait and cool off.

### Big problems:

A student is—

Playing with a lighter  
Throwing rocks at another student  
Stealing from a teacher's desk  
Exploring a dangerous place  
Smoking  
Fist fighting  
Writing on the walls  
Carrying a weapon  
Using inappropriate language  
Inappropriate touching  
Hurting an animal.

**Strategy:**

Tell an adult!

Whenever there is illegal activity (someone is breaking the law) an adult  
MUST be told or when someone is getting hurt.

(taken from Kelso's Choice)

**Another method of problem solving: SOCKS**

Situation-what is happening

Options-what options do I have for solving the problem

Consequences-what are the consequences (good and bad) for each option

Kin-what would your family think of your choice

Solution- Pick an option and try it out.

If the first option does not work out then pick another option and try again.

Don't give up!

By learning positive ways to problem solve a child is learning a valuable skill that they can use over and over again. Positive problem solving will help children to maintain more friendships and hopefully reduce the number of angry, violent ways children turn towards to solve a problem. As they grow older those problem-solving skills will help them in the work place too.