

AN ALLIGATOR ATTITUDE



Allie Alligator thinks he's smart and strong,
He thinks he's right even when he's wrong.
He has an attitude that fighting is cool,
But he's just a snapping alligator fool.
You can do better, you can be right,
Keep fighting over problems out of sight.
Change your attitude, don't be like Al,
Act like a friend, act like a pal.

Be smart and strong, know you're right,
Use your brains NOT TO FIGHT!

Sometimes you're angry, you get uptight,
Use self-control NOT TO FIGHT!

People start pushing, you say all right,
It takes lots of patience NOT TO FIGHT!

People walking around, doing what's right,
Don't be a chump and start to fight.
You don't need to prove that you're big and strong,
You know what's right, you know what's wrong.
They'll try to push you and make you snap,
But always know this, it's just a trap.
You know what's happening, you know what's right,
You're not a fool, so DON'T YOU FIGHT!

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Primary Worksheet

Directions: Answer the question, "How can you help Mickey and Gary get along?"

Directions: The statements below are true and false. Place an **I** (*true*) in front of those that are true and an **F** (*false*) in front of those that are false.

1. _____ Fighting can cause people to get hurt.
2. _____ Gary and Mickey never fight.
3. _____ It takes patience and brains not to fight.
4. _____ It is right not to fight.
5. _____ Fighting is OK if you are angry.
6. _____ It never snows when cats meow.
7. _____ Martin Luther King, Jr. loved peace.
8. _____ Alligators have sharp teeth.
9. _____ Fighting is OK if you are hungry.
10. _____ People get angry about different things.

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Elementary Worksheet

Directions: Answer the question, “How can you help Mickey and Gary become better friends and prevent fighting?”

Directions: Help Mickey and Gary avoid a serious conflict by making good decisions. Place a P (*peace*) in front of the decisions that will avoid a fight and an F (*fight*) in front of those decisions that will lead to a fight. This is your opinion. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. _____ Gary pushes Mickey in the lunch line.
2. _____ After being pushed, Mickey pushes Gary back.
3. _____ After being pushed, Gary asks Mickey to please stop pushing.
4. _____ Mickey apologizes for pushing Gary.
5. _____ Mickey calls Gary a bad name.
6. _____ Gary tells the teacher what Mickey said.
7. _____ Gary realizes that Mickey didn't mean to hurt his feelings.
8. _____ Mickey helps Gary clean the chalkboard after school.
9. _____ Gary cuts in front of Mickey to get on bus first.
10. _____ Mickey breaks Gary's new electronic game.
11. _____ Gary starts a rumor that Mickey cheated on a test.
12. _____ Mickey and Gary help each other with their homework.

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Conflict Management Skills: "Students Avoid Fighting"

Primary: K-2

Elementary: 3-6

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Objectives: To help students identify conflicts.
To help students find ways to settle conflicts without fighting.

Time: 30 – 40 minutes

Materials: "An Alligator Attitude" lesson and worksheets, chalkboard, chalk, pencils and crayons.

Procedure:

1. Read the following story to the class:
"Mickey and Gary were friends and students in the same class. They seem to always be on each other's nerves and ready to fight. Sometimes they would tease and call each other names. They seem to be on the edge of a big conflict and neither one knew how to prevent it from happening. Mickey asked his mom to help out and she gave him a poem to read and remember when he got angry. The next day in school he showed it to Gary."
2. Distribute the worksheets and read the poem, "An Alligator Attitude" to the class.
3. Have students answer the following questions:
 - How do you think Gary felt about the poem?
 - Why do you think it takes a smart person not to fight?
 - Why do you think it takes self-control not to fight?
 - Why do you think it takes patience not to fight?
 - Why do you think it sometimes takes thinking a new way to prevent a fight?
 - Why is it right not to fight?
 - What negative consequences could happen if you fight?
4. Ask the class what kinds of situations could make them angry enough to want to fight. Place them on the chalkboard. List next to each action, suggestions from the class on how to solve the problem without fighting. Use ideas from the list below.
 - *TALK IT OUT *COMPROMISE *TAKE TURNS
 - *AGREE TO DISAGREE *PUT THINGS OFF FOR A WHILE
 - *GET HELP FROM AN ADULT
5. Have students complete the worksheet. Ask students to give answers to each statement. Discuss why each would result in either peace or a fight.
6. Culminate the activity by having the class discuss personal experiences with conflicts they have had. What would they do different now?

Proficiency Test Skills:

- Reading: poetry, comprehension, vocabulary, following directions, analyzing the text, predicting outcomes
- Writing: fictional narrative
- Citizenship: rules of fair play, group decision making, cooperative activity, personal safety