

Human Relations Activity  
*Conflict Management Skills: "Students Avoid Fighting"*  
Primary: K-2                      Elementary: 3-6

A NEW YEAR'S EVENT

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

Time:             30 – 40 minutes

Materials:      "A New Year's Event" lesson and worksheets, chalkboard, chalk, dictionary, pencils and crayons.

Procedure:

1. Write the word "conflict" on the chalkboard and ask for definitions. Have children use dictionary to check the meaning. (a problem that needs to be solved; a fight; struggle or battle; a disagreement, dispute or quarrel)
2. Distribute the worksheets and read the poem, "A New Year's Event" to the class.
3. Have students answer the following questions:
  - Why do you think the students planned a New Year's event?
  - What does celebrating in a unique way means?
  - How did Martin and Luke decide to celebrate with all the students?
  - What conflict changed their good mood?
  - What would make the children fight?
  - What is the golden rule to prevent fights?
4. How can people avoid fighting over problems? (Stop! Think! Talk!)
5. Why is fighting a poor way to settle disagreements? (injury, loss of friendship, property damage, hurt feelings)
6. Complete the worksheet individually or together and check the answers.

Primary Answers: 1. wish    2. end    3. pals    4. scared    5. good  
6. sweet    7. scream    8. speak

Elementary Answers: 1. none    2. start    3. enemies    4. heat    5. Terrible  
6. peace    7. discomfort    8. guide    9. fights    10. honor

7. Ask students to share their experiences dealing with conflicts at home and school. Have the class suggest alternate peaceful ways to handle these conflicts if they had resulted in a fight.
8. Culminate the activity by discussing Martin Luther King, Jr. and his teachings about peaceful ways to solve problems. (Give students information or have them do research.)

Proficiency Test Skills:

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

# A NEW YEAR'S EVENT



The boys and girls at King Peace School were planning a New Year's event,  
They wrote invitations to family and friends and made sure they were sent.  
Martin and Luke were in charge of planning a special day,  
To celebrate the New Year in a very unique way.

Every child in the school was to get a brand new toy,  
They thought that such a wonderful gift would bring lots of joy.  
Martin and Luke shopped and shopped and bought what they could,  
Dolls and games and baseballs, seemed really good.

All the children in the school were as excited as they could be,  
But soon a conflict changed their mood and took away their glee.  
Who would make the decision about how the toys would be given out?  
If the children didn't get their pick, would they fight and shout?

Would they argue, would they scream?  
Would they break up the classroom team?  
Would they treat each other with care?  
Would they act in a way that was fair?

Would they follow the golden rule that says, STOP! THINK! and TALK?  
Would they avoid a terrible fight and just turn away and walk?  
Martin and Luke were afraid that the celebration wouldn't turn out right,  
What could they do to be very sure that the children didn't start a fight?

A NEW YEAR'S EVENT  
*Primary Worksheet*

Directions: Answer the question, "How could the children share the toys without fighting?"

---

---

---

Directions: Look in the Word Box for a synonym for each underlined word in the sentences. Write the answer on the line after each sentence.

<u>Word Box</u>		
end	scream	scared
good	pals	sweet
speak	wish	

1. Some children may want to fight. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stop fighting, talk things out. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Share your toys with friends. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I am afraid to be hurt in a fight. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Getting along with others feels great. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Make friends by being nice to people. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Don't yell at anyone. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Stop, think and talk about problems. \_\_\_\_\_

A NEW YEAR'S EVENT  
*Elementary Worksheet*

Directions: Answer the question in the last line of the poem by writing a four-line poem to explain how the children can prevent fights over the toys.

---

---

---

---

Directions: Unscramble the words in the Word Box. Locate the appropriate antonym for each underlined word and write it on the line after each sentence. The first 2 letters are given to you.

<u>Word Box</u>			
Nohor	ghtsif	eapce	uigde
tsart	eirrblet	nmeeeis	
comfdisort	onne	alhe	

1. Some children may want to fight. (no) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stop fighting, talk things out. (st) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Share your toys with friends. (en) \_\_\_\_\_
4. I am afraid to be hurt in a fight. (he) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Getting along with others feels great. (te) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Try to keep calm between you and others. (pe) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Violence causes pain and suffering. (di) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great leader. (gu) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Presidents should solve problems without wars. (fi) \_\_\_\_\_
10. We celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday. (ho) \_\_\_\_\_

# A NEW YEAR'S EVENT



Copyright 2000 by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution