

Longfellow Cool Tool of The Week Playing with peers-including others/taking turns

Expectation: Be Respectful

Purpose of the lesson? Why it is important:

1. To teach children that including others, taking turns, and sharing displays respect of others and a kindness that benefits everyone.
2. To teach children that when they play respectfully with peers, their peers will probably remember to do the same for them.

Teaching Examples: The following presents situations that your child might find himself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions regarding playing with peers.

- Your child was waiting with friends for their park district class to begin. Your child saw that one of the kids waiting didn't go to the same school and was waiting alone. Your child mentioned it to the other kids and they looked at the other child. Discuss with your child what could be done to make the other child feel less alone (ex. inviting the child to join them, going over and talking to the other child). What could your child do if the other kids didn't want to do anything to include the child who was alone (ex. let the group know that you would be right back and introduce yourself to the child, wait until later and start a conversation, etc.) Ask your child how he/she would feel in the others place.
- Your child was at the park with four friends playing horse at the basketball area. Three younger children were watching them while waiting to play. When the game was over one of your child's friends said, "Let's play another game". The other boys said O.K. They began to play without regard to the younger boys who were waiting their turn. Ask your child what he/she thinks about the situation. Would your child do something to change it and let the younger boys have a turn. Discuss how your child would feel if it were him/her not getting a turn.

Kid Activities/Role Plays:

1. Ask your child why they think it is important to include others. Give your child an example of a time that you didn't feel included and how it made you feel. Ask your child if that has happened to him/her and what it felt like. It is important for children to understand that these things happen to everyone and that we are trying to make it happen less.
2. Discuss situations that include taking turns and /or including and being included with others. List phrases that your child can use when wanting to join in with others who are already playing, phrases on how to ask another to play, and phrases on what to say to others to involve them in play or conversation.
3. Discuss how you can include others, or be fair to others by taking turns or sharing yet not loose the friendship of children who aren't willing to do so.

Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:

1. Praise your child when you catch him/hr including others, sharing, or (and) taking turns.
2. Occasionally check with your child to see if he (she) feels included with peers.

