FINDING SOLUTIONS: Explore conflict resolution strategies

Age Range: 3-5

Skills/Subjects
- Creative Thinking & Problem Solving
- Dramatic Play & Creative Movement
- Life Skills
- Social & Emotional Development

Materials
- puppet or stuffed animal

Directions
Use role-play to set up and resolve conflicts.

1. **Introduce:** Binky Barnes has a reputation for sometimes being a bully. Explain to children that Binky, like some kids, may do things that scare other kids or hurt their feelings. Introduce a puppet as Binky.

2. **Role-play:** Set up role-playing situations reflecting conflicts that may occur among children. Possible scenarios include: (1) Binky tries to grab your crayon, saying: *You’ve got the red crayon. I was looking for that,* (2) Binky knocks your block tower down, saying: *Hey, I’m an earthquake. Your tower is history.*

3. **Resolve:** Encourage children to use their own words to work out a solution with Binky.

4. **Discuss:** After each role-playing situation, discuss what happened. Praise children for their good problem-solving skills.

Talk About It
Brainstorm different approaches to resolving conflicts, such as: compromise: *I’m using the red crayon at the moment, but I’ll finish up quickly so that you can use it, too.*

As your children come up with responses to situations, have them think about how those responses would make them feel. Emphasize the importance of thinking before talking/acting.