Lesson 6: Peacemaking

1. Identify the problem.

2. Focus on the problem, not the person.

3. Attack the problem, not the person.

4. Listen with an open mind.

5. Treat the other person's feelings with respect.

6. Take responsibility for your own actions.

In a tug-o-war or a boxing match it is you against me with rules for fair play. A real conflict situation, however, should not be like a tug-o-war but you and me together against a common problem.

It is difficult to be reasonable when we are very angry. We feel threatened, and often our angry emotions block our good judgements. Fortunately, there are rules we can learn to act fairly in a real conflict situation. By learning these rules we can become capable conflict solvers and be more caring people.

Remember, the goal of fair conflict solving is to make everyone a winner!

WHAT DO YOU WIN?

There is better understanding. Feelings are brought into the open. People respect each other. There is a feeling of trust.

Everyone feels good about the solution. No one is hurt, physically or emotionally. Friends are made instead of enemies.

YOUR CHALLENGE!

Working with a group of your classmates, plan, and then act out for the class, a little scene showing how a conflict was handled unfairly first and then fairly.

As a peacemaker I learned

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