OBJECTIVES

Participants will learn:

• How to engage children in cooperative activities
• How to teach skills for getting along
• How to discipline aggressive children
AGENDA

• Introduction
• The Importance of Friends
• The Caregiver’s Role
• Types of Uncooperative Behaviors
• Skills for Getting Along
• Problem Solving Skills
• Setting Clear Rules and Consequences
• Aggressive Behavior and Discipline
• Teach Cooperation
• Summary
INTRODUCTION

How many times have you heard these statements in the classroom?

- “I had that first!”
- “Stop hitting me!”
- “Give that back!”
- “No I didn’t!” “Yes you did!”
THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDS

Children with friends:

• Feel they belong
• Are more likely to feel self-confident
• Tend to have positive feelings about themselves
• Are typically less lonely and sad
• Usually do better in school
• Grow up to be more well-adjusted adults
THE CAREGIVER’S ROLE

The adult’s job is to guide children towards cooperative behavior and model appropriate behavior.

Remember:

• Children are not born knowing how to get along with each other
• Young children must be taught how to share, take turns and not take things away from other children
• All ages must be taught how to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way
TYPES OF UNCOOPERATIVE BEHAVIORS

• Taking things from others
• Refusing to take turns
• Taking over and bossing others around
• Being overly competitive when playing games
• Being overly aggressive: pushing, hitting, kicking
SKILLS FOR GETTING ALONG

• Tell children to ask you for help if they have a conflict with another child
• Teach problem solving skills
• Have the children role play appropriate social behaviors
• Give the child a sense of control
• Reinforce positive behavior
SKILLS FOR GETTING ALONG

• Model the behavior you want from the child

• Help the children understand that getting along makes things easier

• Let them know other children will be more likely to play with them if they know how to get along with others

• Teach them to identify and appropriately verbalize their feelings

• Help them learn to recognize feelings in others
PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

• Find out what the conflict is about
• Help the children identify the problem
• Teach them how to calm down
• Discuss alternatives
• Evaluate the alternatives
• Reinforce the positive behavior
Children need structure and clear and consistent rules such as:

- “Hands are not for hitting.”
- “Use your words, not your hands.”
- “Ask before taking things that belong to others.”
- “Call for the teacher/caregiver if someone is hurting you – don’t hit back.”
- “Use your words to fix problems.”
AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Have a zero tolerance policy for aggressive behaviors

• Separate the children
• Communicate the behavior as unacceptable and non-negotiable
• Have the victim appropriately confront the aggressor
• Ask the aggressor to apologize
• Talk about alternatives to the problem behaviors
• Ask both children to shake hands after the problem is resolved
• Encourage the children to play together cooperatively, or redirect the children to different activities in the room if necessary
TEACH COOPERATION

• Help kids get to know each other better
• Create opportunities for cooperative interaction
• Treat all kids with the same level of fairness
• Have kids engage in non-competitive activities
• Provide opportunities for children to be helpful to one another
• Teach them different ways to handle anger
SUMMARY

• Learning to get along is important for social, emotional and academic development
• Children must be taught skills for getting along since they are not born knowing this
• Problem solving skills are important tools for getting along with others
• Clear rules and consequences must be taught so children will know what their expectations are
• Creating opportunities for cooperative interaction helps children learn skills for getting along
QUESTIONS?
RESOURCES

• Military Community Services
• Chaplain and Local Clergy
• Military OneSource (800) 342-9647
• TRICARE www.Tricare.mil
• Behavioral Health Services
REFERENCES


• “Aggression and Cooperation: Helping Young Children Develop Constructive Strategies,” Jan Jewett, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting

• “Helping Children Get Along with Friends,” Robert Hughes, Jr., Ph.D., Department of Human Development and Family Science, The Ohio State University