A dark F-35 fighter jet is shown in flight, banking to the right. The aircraft is positioned in the upper half of the frame. Below the jet, a semi-transparent dark banner contains the title text. The background is a clear blue sky with light clouds. In the lower portion of the image, an aerial view of a desert landscape is visible, showing a residential neighborhood with houses and roads, surrounded by brown and tan fields. The tail fin of another aircraft is visible on the left side of the frame.

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO GET ALONG: A TEACHER'S GUIDE

Presented by Military & Family Life Counselors

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

CONTINUED

- 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



SETTING CLEAR RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

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

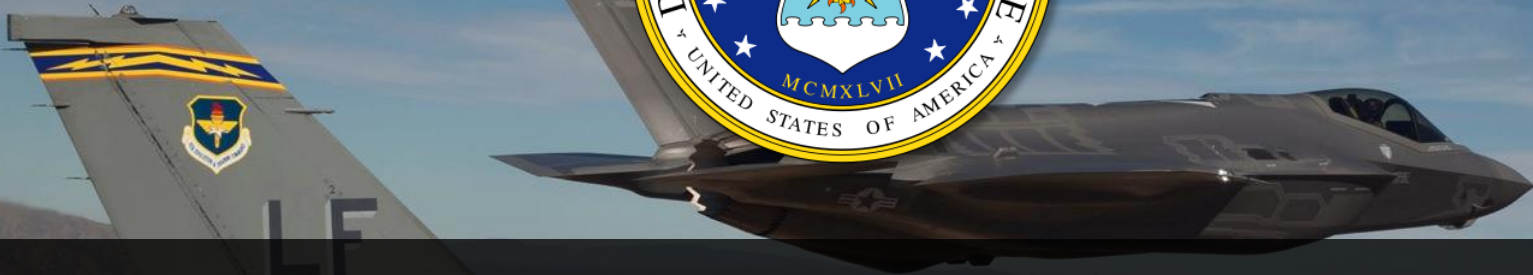
- Military Community Services
- Chaplain and Local Clergy
- Military OneSource (800) 342-9647
- TRICARE www.Tricare.mil
- Behavioral Health Services



REFERENCES

- “Helping children Learn to Get Along”, Illinois Early Learning Project, <http://illinoisearlylearning.org>
- “A Conflict Resolution Protocol for Elementary Classrooms,” Paula Denton and Roxann Kriets, the Northeast Foundation for Children, Greenfield, MA, www.responsibeclassroom.org
- “Aggression and Cooperation: Helping Young Children Develop Constructive Strategies,” Jan Jewett, Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting
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THANK YOU

