

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO BE PROBLEM SOLVERS, PART 2

During the month of December, we will be continuing our discussion about problem solving that we began in November lessons. This month, we will dig a little deeper by learning and practicing specific strategies for dealing with problems such as tattling and gossiping. People of all ages can find it difficult to identify and express their feelings as well as handle conflict in a positive way.

For kindergarten through second grade, I introduced the topic of tattling versus reporting. We learned about the difference between situations that are dangerous and need reporting versus kid-sized problems that children should try to solve on their own before asking an adult for help. We will expand on the topic by learning to identify and express feelings in a positive manner that leads to conflict resolution.

For third and fourth grades, I introduced the topic of rumors and gossip. We discussed the kinds we hear, the way they can be misunderstood and changed as it spreads, the harmful effects they can cause, and brainstormed a few ways to handle them. This month, we will learn and practice problem solving strategies for issues such as rumors, gossip, and other issues that kids commonly face. This will give the children an opportunity to discuss real-life problems with their peers as well as practice healthy ways of handling their problems.

In order for our children to become independent, we as parents and educators need to instill problem-solving skills beginning at an early age to allow our children to figure out the way to resolve conflict that best works for them. On the day I am in your child's classroom, your child will be bringing home material related to their specific lesson topic. Please be on the lookout and plan to discuss and reinforce these essential skills at home.

WINTER COAT DRIVE – SHARE THE WARMTH!

At Heritage Elementary, we will be holding a drive for new or gently used jackets, coats, scarves, gloves, and hats to help those in our community who are in need. Collection boxes for the drive will be located in the hallway by the office and available from December 3rd -20th. During this holiday season, use this opportunity to teach our children the value in giving and serving others.

DECEMBER



Happy
Holidays!

Share the
warmth during
this season of
giving!

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