

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO BE PROBLEM-SOLVERS

During the month of November, I will be teaching classroom lessons on the topic of problem solving. In kindergarten, first grade, and second grade we will be focusing on Tattling versus Telling. Students are still learning that there are some situations resulting in hurt feelings for which they need to deal with *before* going to an adult. We call these problems "kid-sized" problems, ones that kids need to work to solve. It's hard for children to sort out the difference between hurt feelings and danger. We will all need to continue to work together to help children learn and understand the difference between bothersome problems they can handle and ones that are more serious and need adult intervention.

In third and fourth grades, we will be focusing on rumors and gossiping. Students will be learning how to deal with these troublesome and often hurtful habits. Since these are issues that we deal with our whole lives, it is important to begin giving children strategies for dealing with them at a young age. We will discuss that rumors and gossip are, more often than not, at least partially untrue. We will be learning how hurtful words can be and that once spoken, we cannot take back our words. As adults, we too, need to avoid these hurtful habits so that we set a good example for our children.

Conflicts, especially related to tattling, rumors, and gossip, are a normal part of life that we all have to deal with. Children will learn that they will lead happier, more fulfilling lives and have healthier relationships when they minimize conflicts related to tattling or gossiping. We can work together to help to empower our children to avoid and overcome these troublesome and often hurtful situations by teaching and modeling effective problem-solving skills.

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Parents! Don't forget to
print the bookmark for
you students!

NOVEMBER



Be a
Problem-Solver
and
Think before
you *Speak!*