

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM AND GENERATING SOLUTIONS

CONCEPTS

Being calm facilitates using a problem-solving strategy.

Problem solving begins with identifying the problem.

Brainstorming solutions requires coming up with alternative ideas to solve a problem.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

Recall the calming-down techniques.

State the problem in a given situation.

Offer several solutions for a given problem.

NOTES TO THE TEACHERS

This lesson presents the first two problem-solving steps - defining the problem and generating solutions. Strive for neutral problem statements: "Shane's dad is not there" instead of "Shane's dad forgot them."

TRANSFER OF LEARNING

When mediating disputes between children, always first ask "What is the problem?", even if it seems clear. Ask this of each child involved, and blend their answers into a neutral problem statements. For example: "Alexa got a ball out for recess, but Jovan wants to plays with it too." After identifying the problem, have everyone suggest solutions. Continue to probe for more ideas, emphasizing that there are usually many options.

REMEMBER THE DAY

Have students talk about their experiences with identifying problems and brainstorming possible solutions.