

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: MAKING A COMPROMISE
CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *The Berenstain Bears and the Blame Game*
Author: Stan and Jan Berenstain
Publisher: Random House Inc.
Year: 1997
ISBN Number: 0-697-88743-1
Number of Pages: 29 pages
Reading Level: Pre-K - 3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Mama Bear is upset with Brother and Sister Bear because they have been arguing about who starts fights, and who causes problems. They are constantly blaming each other for everything. Then, a vase gets broken and Brother and Sister start to blame each other for the incident. Papa Bear comes in and helps clean up the mess. Then the cubs go outside to play and a window is broken, which starts the blame game all over again. Papa gets very angry. Then the bear family works together to clean up the mess. It is better to fix the problem, than to waste time blaming each other for causing it.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Even when two people think it is the other person's fault, it is often better to compromise and work together to resolve the situation. Otherwise, the "blame game" never ends.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Compromise - to give and take when settling a disagreement; each person gives in a bit, so no one gets their way 100%

Blame - to place the responsibility onto someone else; to point fingers at others, saying they are responsible for causing the problem

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials: chalk or dry erase markers

Advance preparation: Thinking through examples of tattling and times of when an adult needs to be told—you will use these examples in the post-story discussion.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Use the dry erase board to list a few common problems that happen at school. These should be issues related to sharing, blaming, turn-taking problems, tattling, etc.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- In this story, do you think it helped for Brother and Sister to blame each other for the problems that occurred?
- Do you think this blaming is similar to tattling on others?
- Why do you think the “blame game” upset Mama and Papa Bear?
- Do blaming and tattling solve problems?
- When do you think it is necessary to “blame” or “tattle” on someone?

At the end of the book, Papa says that even when a person is to blame for something, most of the time it is better to skip the blaming part and to put your energy into solving the problem—working together. Discuss this with your class.

POST READING ACTIVITY

T-Chart Activity

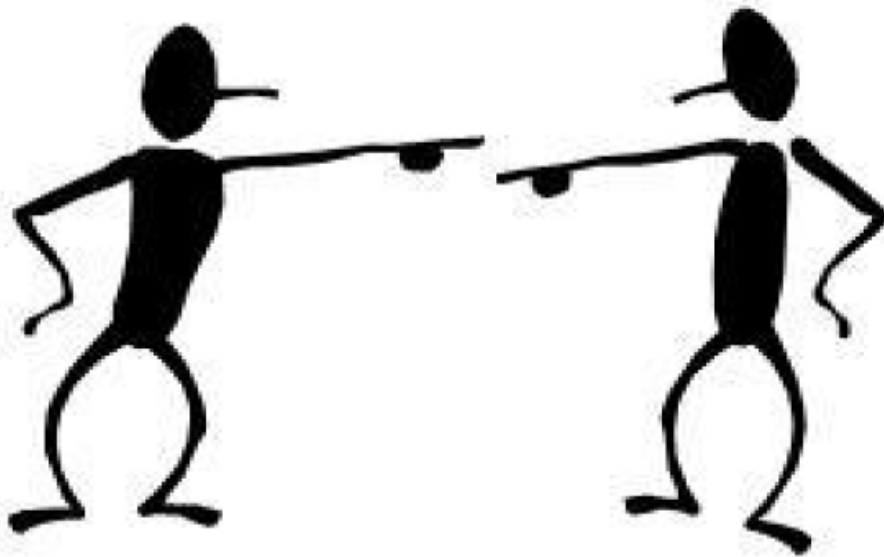
Make a T-chart on the dry erase board in front of the class. On one side of the T, write, ***Compromise on Your Own: Don't Blame or Tattle***. On the other side of the T write, ***Tell a Teacher or Grown Up About the Problem***. Then, make sure the students understand the difference between needless tattle tales, and when a situation would require an adult's help or involvement. After discussing this for a few minutes, have the class give examples of situations that would fall in each category. Write these examples under the heading which best describes the situation. You may need to help younger children think of situations. If possible, use examples that frequently occur in your class. It is hard for younger children to discern a tattle from an emergency that requires immediate help from an adult. This activity helps them develop this important skill.

CLOSURE

Talk about how compromising with classmates, friends, and family often makes life more pleasant. When you compromise, the stress goes down and everyone will be happier. Review the social skill steps with your class. Place the poster provided where students can refer back to it.

Steps for Compromising

1. Look and listen.
2. Show your interest.
3. Use kind words.
4. No arguing, whining, or pouting.
5. Do your part.



**Don't Play the
BLAME GAME!**

Compromise!
WORK TOGETHER