



everyone's family

Nicolson Avenue
LEARNING CLUB
Thursdays
3.20pm – 4.20pm

(start date to be confirmed)

Helping your child with activities to develop their academic skills such as literacy and numeracy after school hours.

Learning Club will be held in the school library. Registration and Consent forms are available at the Admin Office.

To find out more, contact your school
Or
Kate Dickeson, The Smith Family on
0481900471

Helping kids play together - without the drama! (part 2)

(In the Week 7 newsletter we looked at two skills that help children to play well together. This week we look at a third skill, the skill of acting and speaking kindly.)

3. Helping children generate kind sentences to use in games

Teaching children the specific words to say when being kind and fair in a game is more effective than talking generally about "being kind and fair". This means coming up with "kind game playing sentences" for each game. For example:

What could you say to each other which would be a compliment/make them feel good?

What could you say that might make someone feel better if they are upset during a handball game/imaginary dance concert?

If children can't think of kind game playing sentences you could make some suggestions, and ask children what they think about them. For example:

When could you say "Good shot"?

When could you say "Have another go"?

What would happen if you said: "You go first"?

What would happen if you said "Bad luck"?

How could you congratulate people at the end of the game?

What might make a "losing person" feel better if it is a competitive game (would "winner packs up" be a good rule for this game?)

Last ideas about coaching kids to play games

Kids will fight during game play. It's totally normal. But usually they will fight LESS over time, if we teach them, specifically and slowly - how to play. Sometimes it can be helpful to actually ask children to play a game, following these rules, while we watch them for ten minutes.

If you can find time to do this, while you are watching do TWO things.

1. Coach them while they are playing ("Can you remember some kind sentences to say", "Now's the time to say "Let's take a break", say it softly please, "Remember what do you do BEFORE you start the game", "Let's pretend someone breaks a rule - what will you do?")

2. Notice their good play ("Wow, great kind sentence", "Nice work on using a calm voice, I'm so impressed", "You're such a good sport to remember to say congratulations", "Hey you guys solved that problem so maturely all on your own").

Spending this time (in the car on the way home, while you are unpacking a dishwasher, just before bed) brainstorming rules, problem solving strategies and kind sentences that children can use to help them play fairly and well together – and then spending time watching children play and coaching them through difficult interactions – takes time. However, a few minutes here and there (it doesn't need to be hours) often saves time in the long run.

It certainly won't eliminate problems entirely but occasionally we might get those wonderful moments of watching children playing happily. Excerpt from 'Calm Kids Central'

'National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence'

March 15th was 'National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence'. The Action Team thought of some ideas to acknowledge the day and classes participated in a handful of activities provided by the Action Team. Some of the participants of the Action Team went to different classes to help out with activities during their learning time. One of the activities we did was rock hunting with the Unit students. They enjoyed the activity very much because it gave them a chance to look around the school more than what they would have in their play time.

Some classes watched a short film about a boy called Ian who got bullied for being disabled and in a wheelchair. At the end of the film Ian was about to go through the bully barrier (which represented him being excluded by the other children) when one girl grabbed on to his arm to stop him. More kids came along to help and they all got pulled through the bully barrier and broke it.

The participants of the Action Team made some bookmarks with kind sayings on them and put kind slogans on rocks to hide in the yard for others to find. We also printed out some kindness slogans to hand out to classes so they could hear the voice of other kids encouraging others to not bully.

Brooke Moder, Jasmine Schofield, Cameron Sheely
(on behalf of the Action Against Bullying Action Team)

