

Conflict Theme Hands On Activity (Takes about one hour)

Materials

Popsicle sticks, glue, aluminum foil, construction paper, scissors, straws

Activity

- Ask the children to give examples of when they need to cooperate--work together--with others. Accept a variety of answers, and stress that almost every job requires working with others.
- Explain that cooperating involves a number of things, like being patient and accepting differences. Ask the children for other characteristics (communication, compromise). Explain that they are going to need to use these skills for the following activity.
- Have the children work in pairs. Each pair receives the same amount of materials--50 popsicle sticks, glue, one 2" X 2" square of aluminum foil, one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of construction paper, one pair of scissors, and two straws.
- Ask the children to make some kind of creation with the materials. (They don't have to use all of the materials.) Anything is acceptable, as long as each person in the pair contributes to the creativity.
- Allow 30 minutes for this part of the activity. Have children walk around and look at the others' creations.
- Back in the large group, discuss what compromise or discussions and skills were required during the activity:
 - Did you get angry or frustrated with your partner while doing this?
 - Did you like the way your project turned out?
 - What kind of voice did you use to tell your partner what to do?
 - What would you do differently next time?