

Group Problem Solving and Reparation Discussions

FIU Center for
Children, Youth,
and Families

Group Problem Solving Discussions

- Teach children appropriate ways to deal with conflict
- May be called by children or counselors
- Problems in group functioning; behaviors that are affecting the whole group
- Activity leader may call when children's behavior is so disruptive that he or she can not run the activity

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Group Problem Solving Discussions

- One counselor leads discussion
- Second counselor takes notes in the Group Contract Binder
- As children learn process, counselors become facilitators rather than leaders
- Conduct immediately after requested, and continue until a solution is reached. Postpone only for classroom.
- Plan for discussions when possible to guide children toward appropriate solutions

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Group Problem-Solving Discussions

- Issue Identification
 - Person who called the discussion states reason
 - Avoid assigning blame to individuals

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Group Problem-Solving Discussions

- Brainstorming
 - Generate extensive list of ideas
 - Encourage all good ideas, even if not feasible
 - Ignore silly or frivolous ideas
 - Redirect and paraphrase
 - End with refined list of 2-3 suggestions

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Group Problem-Solving Discussions

- Decision Making
 - Evaluate each alternative: will the solution achieve the desired goals?
 - Conduct a group vote to select suggestion

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Contract Writing

- Specify terms of contract
- Specify consequences for following or failing to follow the contract
- Include a provision for a follow-up evaluation meeting
- All group members sign contract

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Group Contract

"We, the undersigned members of Group 5, agree to appoint the High Point Kid as pool equipment monitor. The monitor will make sure that all flippers and kickboards have been put away before the group leaves. If we follow the contract, we will be able to continue using the pool equipment. If we do not follow this contract, we will not be allowed to use the flippers and kickboards for a week. We will meet next Wednesday to evaluate this contract."

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Group Problem-Solving Discussions

- Implementing the Contract
 - Review contract during Morning Discussion
 - Evaluate behaviors and provide feedback
 - Assess reliability and integrity with which counselors are implementing the contract
 - Meet to evaluate the effectiveness of the contract and whether it should be continued, modified or discontinued

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Reparation Discussions

- Conducted after Intentional Destruction of Property or Stealing
- Wait until child finishes serving time out for IDP Do not interrupt activity for discussion but conduct as soon as possible
- Follow standard problem-solving format
- Result is not a contract but is recorded on Reparation Decision Form
- Some reparations may be standard (e.g., destroying site property)
- Individual discussions with child for Unintentional Destruction of Property

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