

Name/Title: Problem Solving Door

Purpose of Event: To help guide students in solving a problem with a classmate.

Prerequisites: Knowledge of the different strategies to solve a problem.

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Materials Needed: A door or an area with problem solving techniques posted. Visual descriptions and picture of different problem solving techniques.

Description of Idea

The Problem Solver Door was designed for students in case there ever is a disagreement between two or more students. I teach the students in the beginning of the year all the different problem solving techniques posted on the door. I also ask them to go over to the door to solve the problem first before taking the problem to an adult.

There are several problem solving techniques that are posted that might help the students before I intervene. Some examples that I have made visual descriptions and pictures of are the repair shop, the rock, paper, scissors method, or odds & evens. I also have a feelings poster posted along with ways to solve a problem by using the "I message".

"Repair Shop" is a list of questions to help student get through their problem by talking it out using the I message with one another. "Rock, paper, scissors" method is the most popular used by the students to solve a problem. "Odds & Evens" is very similar to rock, paper, scissors, but the students choose to be odds or even. On the count of 1,2,3 student hold one hand out with a number 1-5, students then add the numbers together, if it is an odd the person who is odd wins and vice versa. Many other techniques could be posted and implemented.

It's a great place for students to go before coming up to the teacher and it also gives the students some different techniques to solving a problem.

Submitted by **Amanda Chambers** who teaches at Glendale Elementary School in Niagara Falls, NY. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 8/16/2002**. Printed 1049 times since 8/13/2002.

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