

The Peacemaker's Turn: Coaching Kids Through a Fight

From the practice of Elliott McCray, Ed.S., The McCray Learning Lab

What this builds (transformative SEL): Collaborative problem-solving (“We solve it together”).

This practice teaches the harder half of conflict resolution: what the **grown-up** does while two kids are melting down over a toy. The instinct is to swoop in, decide who had it first, and hand down a verdict, and that instinct comes straight from love and a wish for peace. But refereeing robs kids of the very skill we want to build. The calmer path is to **settle yourself and the children first, hear both sides without naming a villain, and walk the kids through the F.A.I.R. steps** so THEY reach a fair fix, instead of judging it for them.

The three moves, ready to grab

- **CALM:** “Let’s take one breath together.” Settle yourself first; your calm is contagious.
- **LISTEN:** “I want to hear what happened, from each of you.” Both sides, no villain.
- **FAIR:** “How could we make this fair for both of you?” Hand them the F.A.I.R. steps; let them build the fix.

This is a **practice tool for rehearsing skills, not therapy, counseling, or a clinical service**. And it never shames the grown-up: the referee instinct comes from love; this is just practice for the moves.

Want the kid version? [Open “Solving Problems With Friends”](#) and read it with your kids: same CALM, LISTEN, FAIR steps, told from Pip’s side.

Your privacy: if you use the optional “say it” recorder, your voice stays on this device: it is never saved, never uploaded, and it is gone when the page closes.

From The McCray Learning Lab. Elliott McCray, Ed.S.

The McCray Learning Lab

mccraylearninglab.com · Ad-free · private (no accounts, no tracking) · This is a practice tool for rehearsing skills, not therapy, counseling, or a clinical service.