



FIGHTING AND PEACEMAKING

Wherever people live together, there will always be difficult situations that can lead to fights. Even Jesus Christ found Himself in difficult situations because of His adversaries. A well balanced, down to earth discussion of this theme will help the children to come to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

The children find how they should behave when having an argument.



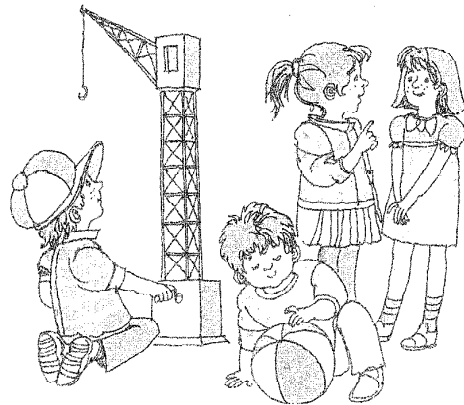
The new crane (to fight for something)

Arnold receives a wonderful crane for his birthday. He brings it with him to the sandbox. His friends admire his crane. They also become a little bit jealous. When Arnold does not let them play with it, an argument starts.

V. 47



On individual pictures there are different behavioral possibilities that can be discussed. (Arnold and his friends play together with something different. They part and play only with other children. They part during a fight and forgive each other later. They make peace...)



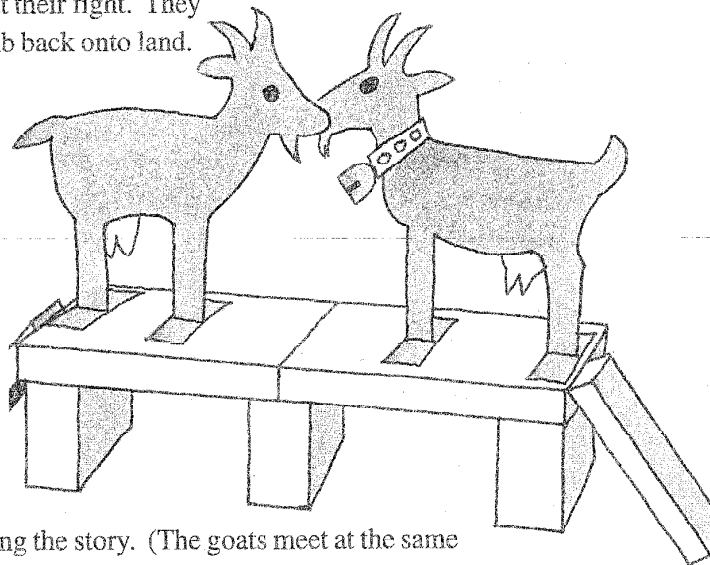


The two goats (fighting and not yielding)

Zirpel and Zwickel are two goats. Whenever the two meet, they fight with each other. One day they meet on a bridge. It is so narrow that they cannot pass one another. Neither one of the goats wants to wait until the other crosses over the bridge. Because of this, they meet in the middle of the bridge. Now the fight begins. Zirpel says to Zwickel: "You go back so that I can cross." "No, you go! I do not want to go back," Zwickel replies. "But I was here first!" "No, no, I was!" claims Zwickel. Finally, they fight bitterly with one another and ram with their horns. While doing this, they forgot that they are standing on a narrow bridge. All of a sudden, they slip and fall into the water. Splash! In the cold water, they forgot about their fight. They are happy that they can climb back onto land.



The children build a little narrow bridge with simple materials. The teacher tells the story while the children move the two toy figures accordingly.



IV. 13



The children design a goat or draw a picture from the story.



The children continue playing the story. (The goats meet at the same place the next day)





The king (fights to find solutions)

Several children build a castle out of wooden blocks with much zeal and imagination. When it is finally finished, the children want to play with it. A king, a queen, a servant, a cook and a maid figure are standing by. Naturally, all want to be king in order to give orders. An argument starts. The mother comes into the room and listens for awhile. "Can you not take turns playing the king?" she finally recommends. "Yes, but I want to be first...", is the reply. "The order can be determined with a counting rhyme," Christian proposes.



We collect known counting rhymes.



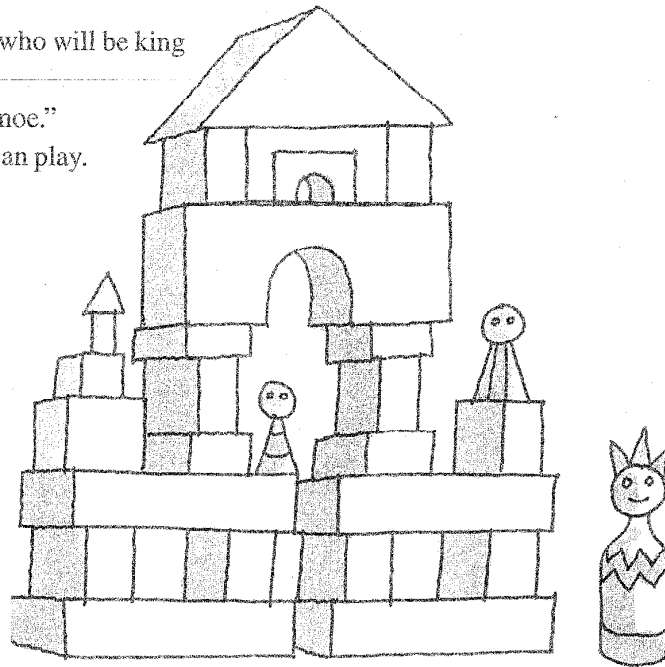
We look for other possibilities to remedy the situation, (e.g. drawing pieces of paper from a hat, in order of birthdays, age, size of the children, etc.)



In role play the order of who will be king can be ascertained.

"Eenie, meenie, minie, moe."

Afterward the children can play.





Robert defends himself (to gain recognition)

Robert lives on the fifth floor of a high-rise building. He is a quiet boy, who can entertain himself quite well. Since he has no brothers or sisters, he is often alone. His mother sometimes says: "Go and play with the other children." Robert says he does not want to. He does not tell his mother that the other children laugh at him, pick on him, or how they tease him whenever they can. He does not have the courage to stand up for himself. One day, when he comes back from shopping, some boys throw him onto the wet ground. The fruits fall out of the shopping bag and get dirty. Robert runs, crying, to his mother. Everything that had been eating away at him comes spilling out. His mother comforts him but also says: "Robert, you do not have to put up with everything. You are already five years old and fairly strong. The next time, you hit back!" This gave Robert confidence. The next day, he rides his bike in the yard. Several neighborhood children soon surround him. They tease him. One boy wants to pull him off his bike. Robert thinks of what his mother said. He quickly springs off of his bike and bravely pushes the rude boy. He even manages to get him on the ground. Amazed and surprised, the children, and even Robert himself, realize how much strength he has. The next day, the doorbell rings. Two boys ask if Robert wants to play with them.



The children talk about how they have had to protect themselves. We strongly recommend that the children should not start a fight, but should protect themselves accordingly.