



# classroom activity - conflict resolution



## We dialogue and live in peace

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AGE	3–6 years old
VALUES	dialogue
MATERIALS	picture of lion and mouse (available at the end of this material). Painting materials and paper
TIME	30 minutes
GROUP SIZE	up to 25 children
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote children's understanding of dialogue as an important value to live in peace.</li> </ul>
METHODOLOGY	narration, dialogue, observation
AUTHOR	Innovation Training Centre

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## STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION

Spoken and unspoken dialogue is central to infant pedagogy in early years. And the promotion of respect and dialogue is central to peace building.

We are proposing here a story with animals, followed by dialogue in the class and paintings followed by a presentation of results.

### Step 1) Storytelling

Read the children a story: "The lion and the little mouse" (you can also show them the picture about the lion and the mouse that you can find at the end of this resource).

A long, long time ago a little mouse was playing and messing around. He was making a lot of noise and, suddenly, he woke up the lion, the king of the animals.

"How dare you wake me up?" the lion roared, "I'm going to eat you all up!" And with that he placed his big paw upon the mouse's tiny body, so that the poor frightened little mouse couldn't move. "Please, forgive me, oh, King of the animals! I didn't mean to wake you up. I was just playing! If you let me go now, maybe I can help you one day!" the mouse squeaked.

This made the lion roar with laughter. "You? Help me? Ha ha ha. You are so small; how could you help me?!" And with that he changed his mind, "Alright, I will let you go, because you would be such a tiny morsel anyway!"

A few months later the lion was prowling around, taking care of his majestic duties, when he got caught in a trap.

He struggled to get free, but the more he tried to free himself, the more he got tangled in the net.

Luckily, the same little mouse was passing by and saw what had happened. The king of the animals was in trouble!

Happy to finally be able to help the lion, the mouse rushed to his aid and started gnawing through the ropes.

"I didn't believe you would be able to help me, but I was wrong," said the lion, when he was set free by the little mouse. From that day on, the lion and the mouse became good friends.

## Step 2) Conversation about dialogue

After reading the story and showing the pictures, ask the children about the characters of the story to make sure they have understood it all.

From the answers provided by the children, we will start a conversation about the importance of dialogue: making emphasis that the importance of dialogue lies not only in listening but on understanding the other part who is speaking (in this case, the mouse) and acting accordingly.

Ask the children:

- Do you think the lion acted well not eating the mouse?
- Do you think it is important to talk and dialogue to solve conflicts?
- How important do you think it is that the lion is open to hear what the mouse has to say?
- When we are in the middle of a conflict: how important it is to listen and want to solve the conflict?

## Step 3) Dialogue and living in peace

Now, we must emphasize how important dialogue is for understanding and for living in peace. Mutual help and understanding and therefore peace, is only possible if we are open to others and have a spirit of reconciliation.

Finally, tell the children to paint a situation in which dialogue and being open minded is important to solve a conflict (for example, when they fight with brothers and sisters).

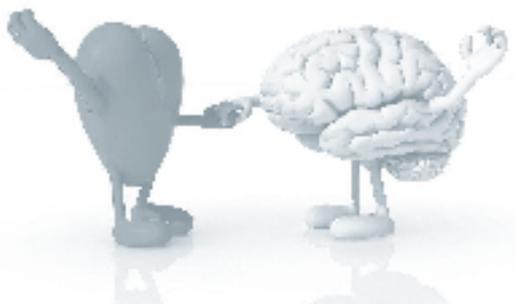
## CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

OBSERVED BEHAVIOR	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Children understand the message of the story.			
Children answered correctly the questions involved in step 2.			
Children knew, what to say.			

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*I remain convinced that most human conflicts can be solved through genuine dialogue conducted with a spirit of openness and reconciliation. - Dalai Lama*

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### Teachers' Selfcare tips and hints:

Aromatherapy can reduce the perception of stress, increase contentment, and decrease levels of cortisol, the "stress hormone." Lavender aromatherapy has indeed been shown to reduce crying in infants and promote sleep in both infants and adults.