



# Decision Making

## ABOUT CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based program for grades K–6 that builds classroom and schoolwide community while developing students' social and emotional (SEL) skills and competencies.

# Bullying and Fighting

By: The Caring School Community

# Bullying and Fighting



## Lesson Purpose

### Students:

- Discuss potential problems on the playground
- Practice “Think, Pair, Share”
- Contribute ideas that are different from other people’s ideas
- Use prompts to add to one another’s thinking



## The Lesson

### 1 GATHER FOR A CLASS MEETING

Have the students gather in a circle with partners sitting together. Remind them that in the previous class meeting they discussed problems on the playground that they might try to solve themselves before they turn to an adult for help. Explain that in today’s class meeting they will discuss bullying and fighting. Remind the students to tell an adult if they are being bullied, see someone being bullied or fighting, or are in any other situation that feels unsafe. Remind them that everyone in the community needs to feel safe and cared for.

Review the class meeting rules. Remind the students that when they mention problems they should refer to “people” instead of using names.

## Materials

- “Class Meeting Rules” chart
- Your notes of the students’ ideas from Playground Challenges

## 2 DISCUSS BULLYING AND FIGHTING

From your Playground Challenges notes, read the examples of bullying, teasing, and fighting the students mentioned. If necessary, add to the students' examples. Ask:

**Q Have you ever been bullied or teased? How did that make you feel?**

**Q Have you ever bullied anyone? How did you feel after you bullied someone? How do you think the person you bullied felt?**

**Q Have you ever been in a fight at school? How did you feel after the fight was over?**

Encourage the students to call on one another during this discussion. As they share their thinking, ask follow-up questions such as:

**Q What comments or questions do you have for [Joseph]?**

Use "Think, Pair, Share" to discuss the questions that follow. As the students share their thinking with the class, encourage them to contribute ideas that are different from those other people suggest and to use the prompts "I agree with \_\_\_\_ because..." "I disagree with \_\_\_\_ because..." and "In addition to what \_\_\_\_ said, I think..." Write the prompts where everyone can see them.

**Q You know that you should tell an adult if you are being bullied or if someone wants to fight with you, but an adult might not be near you when it is happening. What are some things you might do if you are being bullied and there aren't any adults around?**

**Q What might you do if you are with other students who are bullying someone?**

**Q Why do you think some students don't go to an adult when they're being bullied?**

**Q What can the adults in the school do to make it safe for you to report any bullying or fighting?**

Think, Pair, Share

# Class Meeting Lessons

## Students might say:

"I think if someone's bullying or trying to fight with you, you should walk away."

"I disagree with [Sami] because I think you should ask them to stop instead of just walking away."

"I agree with [Giovanni] because if you don't walk away you might get in a fight."

"Some kids might be afraid to tell an adult because they'll get beaten up later. It might help to have an assembly where the principal tells all the kids that nobody should bully or fight, and if anyone sees it happening they should tell a teacher."

"In addition to what [Susie] said, I think we should really try to help the kids who are doing the bullying. I don't think they feel good about themselves."

Explain that the students can take responsibility by reporting any situation that feels unsafe for them, or if they see others in unsafe situations. Remind them that the adults in the school are committed to helping them make the playground and school safe for everyone.

Remind the students that at the next class meeting they will check in on how it is going on the playground.

## 3 REFLECT AND ADJOURN THE MEETING

Have the students reflect on their contributions to the class meeting. Ask questions such as:

**Q** How did you contribute to the success of the class meeting?

**Q** How might you help make our next meeting even more successful?

**Q** Why is it important for everyone to share their thinking?

Adjourn the meeting and have the students return to their seats.



Help the students focus on solutions that reflect the values of respect, caring, fairness, helpfulness, and responsibility.



You may want to record on chart paper the students' suggestions for how the adults in the school can help them feel safe. Let the students know that you will share and discuss their ideas with other teachers and the principal.