

Paths Lesson 13 - Playing by the Rules

Objectives:

- To communicate with others
- To promote conflict resolution
- To take the perspective of others
- To discuss and practise ways of resolving conflicts that arise when rules are broken during children's games

For the next few lessons we are going to talk about how we can handle everyday problems with friends.

Remember!

Everyone has problems with their friends sometimes- that is part of life.



What is important is to learn ways to solve these problems that are fair for everyone involved.

A good way to do this is to remember the Golden Rule...

**Treat others the way that
you want to be treated.**

When we play a game, it is important to have rules. Let's look at the three Fair Play Rules.

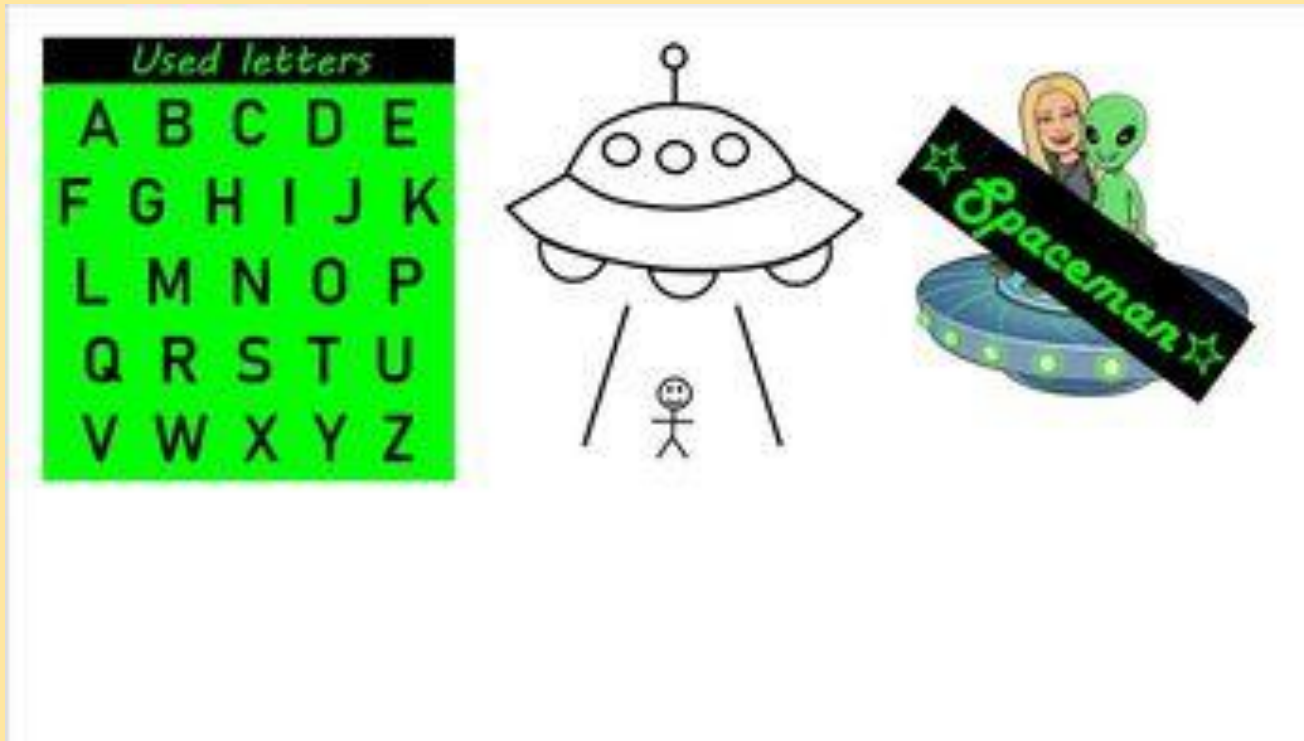
Can you guess what they are?

1. Take turns (so everyone gets a chance to play)
2. Follow the rules
3. Don't tease or boast



When we follow these rules we are showing good manners to our friends.

However it is difficult to obey these rules every time and many of the problems that children and adults have, happen when someone breaks the rules.



One reason we sometimes have problems when there are games is that some children don't know all the rules.

Would making sure everyone knows the rules, before the game begins, be a good way of preventing problems?

Does this happen on the playground?

Suppose you were playing a game of football and one player was breaking the rules.

What could they be doing?



Suppose that this is the first time they have broken the rules.

Imagine that you are the child who is not following the rules; how would you want someone to let you know that?

Let's think of some ways you would tell that person that you are breaking the rules.

1. Nicely remind the child what the rules are (you may need to STOP and CALM down first)
2. Tell the child how you are feeling and ask them to co-operate
3. Ask them why they are breaking the rules
4. Ignore it, if it's no big deal
5. Set a good example by playing by the rules

Sometimes the person will co-operate.
At other times, they continue to
misbehave and disrupt the game.



How would you like someone to tell you that you are messing up the game?

1. Calmly ask them again to stop
2. Ask them why they are messing up the game. Find out if they have a problem.
3. Tell them that they can fool around at another time, but not during the game.
4. Tell them if they don't stop, you won't play with them anymore.
5. Say, "We can't play the game when you are doing that".
6. Tell them if they don't stop, someone will get into trouble (or tell the teacher).

Remember it is easy to get frustrated.

Closure:

During the next few days I want all of you to use these ideas when there are problems during games.

Remember that first you will need to Stop and Calm Down before you can try one of these ideas. If you are not calm, you probably won't do things the best way.