

#### **4 Children Solving Problems**

Teaching children to solve their own problems with peers is a difficult task. Some children seem naturally to do this better than others. There are many different styles of conflict resolution but children can be taught strategies for resolving conflict. With young children, typical conflicts are over belongings or sharing. As children get older (by age 5), tattling or not playing with a friend is a common threat. Typical ways we help children resolve is separation of children, changing the topic or the activity, or undoing what the offender did. Much conflict resolution is simply teaching appropriate social skills. We teach children how to hear, listen, understand feelings, and apologize. Having adults and older children role model, helps to teach. Also limiting TV show and video games that encourage violence is another strategy. Take on a non-tolerance policy for violence and unkindness and it will carry over in school and in your child's friendships.

Think about it. I'm Dr. Karen DeBord with North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension.