

# Property Rights: A Relationship Based Approach

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# Welcome

- Relationship based approach
- Why is it important for the creation of problem solving skills
- How might it work for you
- Specific questions about sharing struggles?

# Connection is Vital

warmth

respect

eye contact

listening



trust  
cooperation  
respect

*Child's neural pathways grow*



# Thinking Follows



*connection*



**Prefrontal Cortex**  
Attention  
Reasoning  
Judgment  
Planning  
Impulse control  
Short-term memory



# Aggressive Behavior

Remember that aggression comes from fear. When possible, we can loosen the fear.

Under the age of 3, a child's brain is not yet developed enough to allow self-regulation, instead it relies on a calm and regulated adult to learn and develop this ability.

# Here Is The Secret

It is not about the toy.

# Listening To Children

- Staylistening Basics



# Listening Partnership 1

Think about a time that you had a disagreement about property rights. Talk to your partner about it. Try to put yourself back there, and think as much as you can about what you felt at the time.

Your partner will listen and hold the idea that you are good, intelligent and doing the very best you can.

# Change Partners

Now the person who was talking will listen.

Remember, as you listen, this person is intelligent and will work it out, with the support you are providing.



# A Connection Solution



# Tools and Policies



# I'll Stay With You While You Wait

You stay with the child who wants the toy. Your attention and presence can help them to process. You are targeting the cause of their behavior rather than the surface level struggles.

When the child can use the toy as long as they want, they don't have to play so defensively. This also makes it easier to focus on friends instead of protecting favorite toys.

Listening to feelings also shifts our efforts away from "teaching" children to share and towards focusing on what's stopping them from getting along well with each other.

# Go For Laughter

Games where you allow the child to have more power. When you see a glimpse of laughter, follow it. Be aware of playing the less powerful role up a lot, not imitating any child, but just being silly and helpless.

This happens at a time when everyone is together and not usually during the conflict.

# Fairness Across Time

- Strive to create a more fair and respectful atmosphere, rather than making every single situation 50/50.
- Adults who are very conscientious about fairness can miss the opportunity to see the needs underneath.

# Things To Consider

The following are some frequently asked questions



# “He’s Hogging It!”

- Other kids: Tell him! They get to work out an agreement.
- Stay with the waiting person so they can feel their frustration without being shushed.
- Set a reasonable rule about time, for example, the next day, everything starts over.
- Make sure the person hogging the swing knows you are aware.

# What About Timers?

- With the timer, we are keeping the focus on the toy.
- What we want is instead to focus on connection to the children. This shifts your energy from monitoring the length of turns to staying responsive and holding space.
- Some teachers carry post it notes and write down the time instead. This helps to show your acknowledgement.
- And, there may at times be a need for timers.

# Set Limits on Aggressive Behavior

- When children are pushing, shoving, grabbing, biting, they need our help getting back on track.
- Use a **calm**, warm and firm voice. Put your body in the way.

# Some Laughter Starters

What have you done that works?



# “It’s Mine” Game

Laughter is a powerful way of releasing emotional tension and a good game of “It’s Mine” can help children laugh deeply about sharing.

How to play:

Make sure you have a good supply of small pillows or cushions and some space to move. Lightly insist that one pillow is yours. “It’s mine! and I’m not going to share it!”, goofily huffing and puffing, cuddling a pillow tightly. It’s likely kids will find this really funny.

Most will dive in and grab your pillow which is good place to have a tussle over the pillow. Follow any laughs that come up.

# Hand Puppet Squabbles

Play a goofy game with a soft toy or hand puppet (or simply your hand as a puppet).

**Bunny: This is my ball and no one else can have it. Ever.**

**Duck: You can't keep it all to yourself! You have to share.**

**Bunny: Well, I'm not going to. So there.**

Laughter is a powerful way for children to relieve their tighter feelings around sharing. The goal is to make kids laugh about the topic so that the heavy seriousness can melt away.

Bonus: Laughter is a big source of connection.

# Time To Brainstorm

- Make a plan for how you might build in connection
- Thoughts about modeling kindness
- What laughter-inducing tools can you use?
- Write a letter to yourself

# What A Child Needs

- The daily opportunity to connect and be relaxed with someone who cares
- Emotional warmth and welcome
- Respect for his intelligence
- Time for play
- Lots of affection
- Frequent opportunities to laugh together with others
- Frequent opportunity to cry, in the shelter of someone's arms, when hurt feelings arise
- Information about what is happening and why
- Limits—enforced without violence—that promote safety and respect

# Q and A

- What is one thing you will take with you?



# Contact

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Please look for a Facebook group for this event!

