

**Counselor's  
Corner—1st grade**

# Siblings Fighting

**EVES**

Siblings will not always get along and as parents, we intervene in fights and rescue the innocent child too many times. To teach your children more social skills and avoid as much conflict as possible consider these tips:

Think of fighting as a way for your children to learn to deal with conflict when they become adults. Don't think that brothers, sisters, and friends shouldn't fight if they love each other. Establish rules for fighting- tattletales will not be listened to, no physical contact will be tolerated, arguments can be tolerated but must be held outside in the yard, parents may have to stop arguments by separating children.

Teach cooperation when children can't find a solution and fight too long about an issue or don't speak to each other for days. Ways to teach this:

- A. Place each child in a different area in one room and have them face each other and tell them that no one leaves the room until problem is solved.
- B. Have each child list 3 good things on paper about the other child and then read them aloud.
- C. Let your presence be known but do not lecture, compare your children to other children, or force insincere apologies.
- D. Let each child tell his version of the argument and suggest solutions. Insist that all solutions be discussed.

For positive childhood development to occur expectations must be set for these difficult times in the home. Good luck and remember this will take time and consistency to accomplish.

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**“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” Mother Teresa**

