

ARGUING

Children argue. This happens in every family and on every playground. Whether they argue about a toy, a game that got out of hand or a jealous reaction, it is all part of growing up.

Children need to learn to interact with each other. They can't always get their own way. They need to learn to consider others, but also to stand up for themselves.

Young children are unable to do this yet. Only from the age of 8, a child is able to empathise with the feelings of others.

However, it's no fun when children argue. It can bring about an unpleasant atmosphere. If it happens too often, it is necessary to intervene.

TIPS TO PREVENT ARGUMENTS

1. DISTRACT

Distract their attention to something else when children are arguing.

2. IGNORE

Sometimes the best way to prevent arguments is to ignore the arguing. This way, children don't get attention for their negative behaviour. Furthermore, arguing is also a way to learn to interact with others. This happens by making mistakes and learning from them. See it as a good learning opportunity.

3. GIVE TASKS

Arguments are often a consequence of boredom or tiredness. If you notice there's an argument brewing, give your children separate tasks. This way, they won't have the chance to argue.

4. MAKE CLEAR AGREEMENTS

Make agreements and set rules on playing with each other's toys. You don't snatch toys that are being used by someone else.

5. ENCOURAGE

Compliment your children when they are playing nicely together.

TIPS TO TACKLE ARGUMENTS

1. DON'T INTERVENE TOO EARLY

Children need to learn to stop arguing. Only intervene if this doesn't work or the situation gets out of hand.

2. DON'T CHOOSE SIDES

Let each of your children tell their side of what is going on. It doesn't matter who started it. Don't choose sides.

3. LET THEM SORT IT OUT THEMSELVES

Ask your children to look for a solution amongst themselves. This way, they will learn to sort out their arguments by themselves. Compliment your children if they manage this.

4. INTERVENE IF THERE IS VIOLENCE INVOLVED

Children shouldn't hurt each other. If this happens, intervene immediately. Make it very clear that your child shouldn't hurt anyone and give your child time to cool down in a separate spot. Once calmed down, your child can join in again. If it happens yet again, put your child aside once more. You might have to repeat this process a few times before your child will understand not to hurt anyone.

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