

## Not Using 'I Can Problem Solve' Words

*(Two children fighting over one toy)*

Mum: Why are you two fighting?

Child 1: I had it first.

Child 2: No I had it first.

Mum: Now look. I can't help you if you don't tell me who really had it first. If you grab like that you'll break your toys. I'll be mad and you'll both end up in your rooms. Stop now! Share!

## Using 'I Can Problem Solve' Words

*(Two children fighting over one toy)*

Mum: What's happening? What's the matter?

Child 1: It's mine. I had it first.

Child 2: No, I had it first.

Mum: How do you feel when she grabs from you?

Child 1: Mad.

Mum: And how do *you* feel when she grabs from you?

Child 2: Mad.

Mum: Now you're both mad. Grabbing is one way to get your doll back. What happens next when you grab?

Child 1: We fight.

Mum: Can you think of a DIFFERENT way so you both won't be mad and you won't have to fight?

Child 2: We can shake hands.

Child 1: We can play with it together.

# I Can Problem Solve



'I Can Problem Solve' teaches children specific words that help them to learn that behaviour has causes, that people have feelings and that there is more than one way to solve a problem.



**Sure Start**  
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Beacon Heath, Heavitree & Polsloe & Whipton

Working with families and their children under 5  
to build future generations of happy, healthy, confident children



in partnership with  
**Devon**  
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**action for**  
**children**

## Words Your Children have Been Learning

is      some      all      not      or  
and      same      different



### Getting dressed

Is this a shirt OR a sock?  
Are ALL of your socks white  
OR are SOME of your socks  
white?  
I can see a shoe AND a  
jumper.

### These words help your child to think about

- \* What to do
- \* Whether an idea is a good one or not
- \* What else to do instead



### In the shop

This IS an apple. It is NOT  
an orange.  
Can you show me the  
SAME thing?  
Can you show me some-  
thing that is DIFFERENT?

### How You Can Help

Using these words for just a few minutes  
every day will help your child to understand  
them.

### Use the Words Anywhere You Like

At the shops, at meal times, getting dressed,  
watching tele, on the bus or in the car.

Grown-ups often solve problems for children.  
'I Can Problem Solve' gives children the words  
they need to solve problems for themselves.

Please read the example on the back and see  
what you think.