Problem Solving

Nabil has a problem at school, but he doesn’t want to tell his mother what it is. He tells her that it’s “not important” and to “forget it.” His mother asks again why he is upset. Finally Nabil explains the problem and his mother takes action.

Discuss in a group the answers to these questions.

Does your child usually tell you when something is wrong at school? How do you encourage your child to communicate with you? How can you tell when something is bothering him or her?

More questions for discussion

1. Why doesn’t Nabil want to tell his mother at first?

2. Did something like this happen when you were young? What did you do about it?

3. Has a situation like this happened to your child? What did you do about it?

4. Do you think the problem between Nabil and Herman is fairly common? Do you expect your child to occasionally experience problems like this at school?

5. Do you agree with Herman’s punishment? Can you think of other solutions?

Examples:

1. A suspension from school is a solution.

2. Talking to his parents is a solution.

3. Picking up trash at lunchtime is a solution.

4. No TV for a month is a solution.

5. __________________________ is a solution.
Problem Solving

Nabil has a problem at school. An older child is hitting and pushing him down. He has also threatened to hurt Nabil if he doesn’t receive money. Nabil’s mother doesn’t think he can solve this problem alone. He and his mother go to the principal’s office and report the boy.

Discuss in a group the answers to these questions.

Do you think Nabil’s problem is serious? Do you think his mother did the right thing? Do you think his mother was right to intervene and report this problem to the principal? Why or why not?

More questions for discussion

1. Do all problems at school require parents to help solve them?
2. Give another example of a problem a parent should address.
3. If someone is bothering your child at school, how do you suggest that he or she handle it? If another child is bothering your son or daughter at school, do you always recommend that your child take a non-violent approach? Look at the examples below. Do you agree with them? Add your own suggestions.

Examples:

1. I suggest that we talk to the principal.
2. I suggest that my child hit the other child back.
3. I suggest that we ignore it.
4. I suggest that we call the other child’s parents.
5. I suggest that ____________________________.