

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #34 – Conflict & Compromise (Bullying)



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about CONFLICT & COMPROMISE, particularly as they relate to BULLYING. Nothing makes my tail wag quite as fast as when I get to go to the park to play with my dog friends. We love to chase the squirrels! When we are together in groups, we know that we must play nice with one another. The same principle applies to humans! When you are with other people, it is important to make sure that everyone is treated kindly. If you notice someone being mean or bullying another, you should say something and take action.

Sticky Situation: Imagine you are eating lunch in the cafeteria with your friends from class. While you are talking, your classmate Alex accidentally trips while carrying her lunch tray to the table, causing her food to spill onto the floor. One of the boys eating lunch with you stands up from the table and points at Alex while laughing and screaming, "You're such a klutz! Don't sit with us!" During this, you noticed that Alex becomes upset.

- What would you do in this situation? Why?
- Why do you think it is important to tell the boy at the table who made fun of Alex and made a rule without asking his tablemates if they agreed that what he did isn't okay? Bullying isn't okay?
- What could you say to Alex to make her feel better in this situation?

Activity: With your friends or family, talk about the things you could say to a bully if you saw them being mean to someone. Practice saying these things out loud. How could you let the bully know that being nice to others is always the right thing to do?

Next, talk to your friends or family about the ways you could help someone that is a victim of bullying. How could you stand up for them? What could you say to comfort them? Is there anyone you could tell about the bullying in order to get help, perhaps your teacher?

Civics Resources: Watch this video about [McGruff the Crime Dog](#) to learn how he "takes a bite" out of bullying!