

## Dramatic Tip #16



*Home Of  
Fairytale and Feelings,  
Super Hero Academy  
& Trading Faces*



### **A Problem Solving Attitude**

It's a sunny afternoon and three brothers begin to fight over one blue lollipop. The other suckers are green, and *no one wants green!* The scene immediately devolves to grabbing, fighting and yelling over who saw it first.

"Wait!" Mom cries. "I hear a problem." The look on her face doesn't mirror their frustration. She looks almost happy. The three boys are surprised and their anger is immediately tempered. "I love problems!" She whispers, "How many ideas can we find to solve it?" The energy is shifted towards addressing the issue and ideas quickly emerge.

"We could pick a number that you decide, and we whoever gets closest wins." One child says.

"We could have something else instead," another one offers.

Other solutions include the quiet game, having nothing at all or taking turns licking the grape and washing it off in between. They vote. Luckily, they come to a quick agreement, the number game. Mom first makes sure the 'losers' won't be too disappointed. They agree the game makes up for losing out on the blue sucker.

Summertime is filled with exciting problem solving opportunities for children. As parents, admittedly, we generally don't think of them as opportunities. More often, challenges feel like inconveniences or unnecessary disruptions. Children's challenges seem small in the face of rising gas and food prices. To a child, child-sized challenges rival any other in the world with the immediacy of the moment.

Children each have their individual responses to difficulty. One may lash out in anger while another withdraws in silence. Others might avoid problems until they become too big to ignore. It is rare for a child to embrace problems as a creative opportunity. How a child faces

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conflict helps define who he is and creates the foundation for problem solving in adulthood.

As creative parents and teachers, we can help children look at problems, not as burdens to bear or inconveniences to avoid, but as exciting opportunities to sharpen skills. With a conscious shift in attitude we help children increase their heroic problem solving abilities. Initiating an attitude of fun, curiosity and excitement makes the challenge more accessible and helps redirect other emotions into positive energy. With negative emotions aside, we can concentrate on teaching problem solving tools.

Here's a few ideas:

- Tap into a child's interest in role playing. If there are particular characters your child enjoys, he or she could take on that role in addressing problems. "What would your favorite character do?"
- Children may be more willing to address the problems of others. When you have problems, call on your problem solving helper to assist in addressing them. Short term problems may include finding the car keys for going to the store, long term problems could include finding the 'right' place to store those keys.
- During dinner time or in the car, invent various problem scenarios and play a round-a-bout game where everyone takes turns exploring solutions.
- Before beginning the day, go on an imaginary problem hunt. Imagine all the possible difficulties you might face and explore solutions in advance.

Summer time is the perfect time to slow down and take advantage of the extra time we have with our children. We will never have those precious moments again. By utilizing a creative attitude, we help our children effectively address the many difficulties that come from changing schedules, extended social interactions, and travel. When children have a positive attitude towards addressing problems, they build their problem solving abilities to manage the more intense demands that come later. So, this summer help your child develop a greater tolerance for managing the daily challenges of life. Cultivate a positive problem solving attitude of fun.

*Developing a problem solving attitude is just one way in which Super Hero Academy classes are unique. Spaces are still available, **registration closes on Tuesday, June 17th for the June 23rd class, and space is still available!!!***

*Super Hero Academy - Where Problem Solving Super Heroes are born.*

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**The deadline for registering in the June 23rd summer Super Hero Academy is Tuesday June 17th. There are still openings for July 7th and July 21st. Call for more information. 303-377-0785**

**Fairytales and Feelings fall schedule is in. Sign up early. Classes begin Saturday September 6th at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday September 9th at 6:30. Classes run eight weeks.**

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**DRAMATIC ADVENTURES, INC.**

**303-377-0785**