Sibling disagreement: our boundary and repair plan

Print this sheet, or talk through the prompts together. Use only the parts that help. Keep completed copies private.

Use after an everyday disagreement has settled. Complete separate copies if that helps children speak freely. Do not use mediation to make a frightened child negotiate their own safety.

What needs to stop immediately?

Unsafe or hurtful action: _____

Adult safety response: _____

Child who needs care or space: _____

Each child's account

Child one's words about what happened: _____

What they needed: _____

Child two's words about what happened: _____

What they needed: _____

Listen without requiring the children to agree on every detail. Avoid labels about who is always difficult or always sensible.

Continue: Sibling disagreement: our boundary and repair plan

Find the practical problem

Is it about a possession, shared space, joining play, noise, turns or something else? _____

Example: “Unfinished models are being moved from the table before their owner is ready.”

Our one clear boundary

What everyone will do: _____

What the adult will arrange or support: _____

How a child can ask for help: _____

Example: “Unfinished models go on the safe shelf. Ask the owner before touching them. An adult helps if there is no room.”

Repair and review

A practical repair that respects the hurt child’s wishes: _____

Something to practise when calm: _____

Date to check whether the arrangement helped: _____

A child may need space rather than a hug. If there is repeated harm, intimidation or fear, seek support rather than relying on this sheet. Every child’s safety matters, including the child who finds it difficult to manage their behaviour.

Browse all free resources.

For ideas to use alongside this resource, read Sibling arguments: helping children disagree without hurting each other.