

WHEN A STUDENT HURTS ANOTHER CHILD: WHAT TO SAY IN THE MOMENT

The Situation

Liam hits Emma because he wanted the truck she was using.

A Simple Three-Step Response

1. Acknowledge the need.

Get low, use a calm voice, and name what the child wanted: “You really wanted a turn with the truck.”

2. Set the boundary.

Keep the boundary brief, clear, and firm: “You may not hit. Hitting hurts. Emma is crying.”

3. Offer a choice.

Give two acceptable options: “You may wait for a turn with the timer, or you may come with me to the library area until the truck is available. Which one do you choose?”