



Lesson 13

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS

1. ROLE-TAKING
2. HYPOTHETICAL THINKING

RATIONALE

The purpose of this lesson is to have the children consider another person's perspective in a conflict situation and to think about ways to solve the conflict without hurting anybody's feelings. This lesson may be expanded to elaborate further on each feeling or conflict situation.

MAIN ACTIVITY

- a. Have a puppet show in which the puppets have some conflict. Some suggestions for conflict are — not sharing, yelling in the classroom, or other inappropriate behavior.
- b. Have the puppets ask the children for advice on how to resolve their conflict as well as asking relational questions such as "How am I supposed to feel? How does the other puppet feel? How do I know that he or she is angry at me? What can I do to make the other puppet feel better?" Discuss various alternatives with the children, and ask them how they would feel if they were one of the puppets.

VARIATION

Role-play the conflict situations directly with the children, asking questions such as those given above. Add more feelings to the story or play.

GENERALIZING ACTIVITY

Using the conflict situations above, have the children suggest solutions, and possibly act them out. Discuss how the children, and maybe the teacher, differ in their view of what a good solution is.

BRIDGING DISCUSSION

- a. Discuss behavior in the classroom that makes the children or the teacher angry, happy, or some other feeling. Discuss the reasons for the feelings.
- b. Discuss behavior at home that makes other family members angry, sad, or happy, or that makes pets happy, angry, or sad.
- c. Discuss sibling conflicts and how each participant in the conflict feels. Discuss solutions that might have or did solve the conflicts without hurting anyone's feelings.

OTHER BRIDGING DISCUSSION

School:

Home:

Peer group:

Other:

COGNITIVE MASTERY CRITERION

Each child should be able to name one example of behavior that makes another person angry or sad, and suggest one solution to a problem this behavior might create.

