

4Rs Family Connections: Grade 3

Dear Grade 3 Parent or Guardian,

Here is the third special homework assignment for you to do with your child. It's part of Unit 3 of our 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution). The 4Rs helps children get along well with others and deal with conflict while developing their skills in reading and writing.

In Unit 2 we learned about feelings. In Unit 3: Listening, we are learning to be better listeners. Good listening skills help us to hear and understand another person's point of view. This helps us avoid misunderstandings and conflicts.

Unit 3 begins with the teacher reading the book “The Pain and the Great One” to the class.

- 1. Ask your child to say what he or she remembers about the story. Encourage your child to talk by asking questions (What happened in the story? Who are the main characters? etc.).**
- 2. Here's a summary of the book. Please read it with your child after s/he has talked about the story:**

This is a story told from two points of view. First, the older sister, a third-grader, tells about her brother, whom she calls “The Pain.” She thinks her parents must love him the best because they let him stay up as late as they do her. When she complains, they agree to put him to bed earlier, but then she's bored. The second half of the story is told from the little brother's point of view. He calls his older sister “The Great One” and is sure that the parents love her more because they scold him when he pulls her hair after she has teased him. When he complains that her friends play with his blocks, his parents let him have the blocks to himself. But he is bored without her.

- 3. Now ask if there's anything else your child wants to say about the book.**
- 4. Do the following activity with your child, using the Activity Sheet provided (reverse).**

ACTIVITY

If “The Pain” and “The Great One” listened to each other, they might understand each other more and get along better. You can practice good listening with your child. Ask your child to remember a time that he or she had a conflict with a friend. Have the child describe it. Paraphrase, or repeat back, what you heard your child say, using your own words. When your child is certain that you understand what happened, act it out. Have your child play the part of the friend. You play the part of your child. Stop the action after a minute or two and talk about the two points of view in the conflict. How did your child see the conflict? How did the other person see it? / Now reverse the roles. You tell about a simple conflict that you had with someone. Your child paraphrases what you just said. Your child plays you. You play the person you had the conflict with. Discuss. Work together to complete the Activity Sheet (reverse).

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CHILD'S NAME: _____ Teacher: _____ PS _____

Adult's Name: _____

Describe the conflict your child had with a friend. _____

What was your child's point of view?

What was the other child's point of view?

What might be a good solution to this conflict?

Describe a conflict you (adult) had with a friend when you were young.

What was your point of view? _____

What was your friend's point of view?

What might be a good solution to this conflict?
