

Name/Title: Talk-About-It

Purpose of Event: To implement self-directed learning and problem solving. Allow teacher more time for giving feedback and less time dealing with "small" problems.

Prerequisites: Students must know class rules and the difference between "Big" and "Small" problems.

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Materials Needed: 2 large envelopes labeled: Problem! and Problem Solved! The station or area should be clearly marked with large letters to ensure the students are familiar where to go with problems.

Description of Idea

Designate a small area of the gym (Close to the wall) and call it the Talk-About-It station.

When students come up to you the teacher with complaints or "Small" problems the students must fill out a form to work out the problem on their own, or together. The form should be in the "Problem" envelope.

The form inside the envelope should have the following:

1. What is the problem?
2. How did the problem make you feel?
3. How was the problem solved?
4. Have a signature line for the students involved.(For accountability)

After the students finish the form, they should place it in the "Problem Solved" envelope. After the idea is implemented the teacher should have a lot less students interrupting class time and they should know where to go and what to do if a problem arises. Let the students know that they cannot return to the activity until the form is complete. The station has been implemented at my school and students know that if it's a small problem, it is their responsibility to fill out a form and work it out themselves.

Teaching Suggestions:

This activity has the potential to take away from classroom time. It is important for the physical education teacher to help mediate with the students to solve the problem quickly when necessary or to ask for assistance from the homeroom teacher if the problem cannot be solved in a short time period. Students who use the cards regularly may need some additional help to figure out why there is so much conflict during class.

Submitted by **Jeff Montgomery** who teaches at Kemp Elementary School in Hampton, GA. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 4/17/2004.**

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