

Parenting Tips

from

Community Parenting Service

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Opening times : Monday to Friday 12pm to 4pm

Dealing with Sibling Rivalry or When Children Fight.

Within the family siblings have a wonderful opportunity to develop a unique and significant relationship with each other. Conflict is a natural part of any close relationship. Conflicts between siblings can be handled in such a way our children learn lessons in good communication, listening, forgiveness and problem solving. Listed are some suggestions to help you as a parent turn these times of conflict into times of learning and growth.

- Remember that most children fight
- Encourage children to solve their own problems
- Don't act as a referee. Although at times you may be required to settle disagreements, suggest your children settle their own issues.
- Choose the time for discussion wisely, definitely not while everybody is in a highly emotive state. Make the suggestion that issues be discussed later.
- Separate your children.
- Respect your child's desire to look after their special possessions.
- Your own expectations about the degree of harmony in the home needs to be realistic.
- Avoid asking your children why they are fighting.
- Children will argue with each other to gain parental attention. It is important that this attention is not given as it will serve to reinforce the unacceptable behaviour.
- Don't 'set yourself up'. Avoid allowing your children to become involved in games, activities etc. which you know will result in fighting, blaming and name calling.

We invite you to visit our Centre to 'check out' the wide range of information that we have available for you to browse or borrow.



**Department for
Community Development**