

What's OK? A Conflict Resolution Program for Children

Author, Mark Jagla

Toronto author, Mark Jagla, has created a valuable conflict resolution manual, utilizing a series of stories depicting real conflicts, which can be immediately applied to school and family situations. Issues such as bullying, honesty, loyalty and name-calling, come alive through authentic dialogue. Lar DeSouza's brilliant character illustrations instantly capture children's interest and imagination. Each story is accompanied by a lesson overview, questions for teachers and sample answers.

Carole Papa, a TCDSB teacher at St. Gerard Majella, commented that the format, "is easy to follow and the stories are open-ended, leaving it up to the children to come up with possible solutions. The examples of some ways of solving the conflicts are very helpful."

Margaret Shilton, a teacher with York Region's Kleinburg Public School was equally enthusiastic. According to Shilton, "From the first day that *What's OK?* was in our school, it immediately became a 'go-to-resource' for supporting the children in difficult situations. It teaches the children to accept responsibility for their actions and guides them towards identifying solutions to everyday situations in a non-threatening context."

There are curriculum connections listed for Language, Drama, Visual Arts, and Healthy Living, to support the many uses of this book. The program is recommended for Grades One to Six; however, you could hear a pin drop when I was reading one of the stories, "It's My Sidewalk Too!", to our Grade Eight class one day. Even School Council parents standing in the doorway, ready to sell tickets for Pizza Day, were caught up in the story.

Teachers may be familiar with Jim Chapel, a Science teacher, who has given several presentations in our schools. Jim has assisted Mark Jagla with this book.

Copies of the book can be ordered through Mark Jagla at a cost of \$40.00.

Mark can be reached at (416) 763-3270.

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