

“Getting it Right Without a Fight – A Musical Experience”.

TEACHERS GUIDE AND PREPARATORY CONCEPTS

IN order to derive optimum benefit from the show, the children should be familiar with the key concepts described below.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

After the presentation, the children they will have an understanding of the concept of SELF-ESTEEM, which is the focal point of the show. They will understand how self-esteem gives them the confidence and PERSONAL POWER to cope with conflict situations in their lives, particularly the problem of BULLIES, where the concept of COMPROMISE is illustrated. A message of the power of self-esteem is directed to bullies as well.

PROGRAM THEME

The theme of the programme develops around the central character, the ventriloquist figure *Benjy* who is on his way to his first school life skills camp. He is feeling very insecure because most of the children are bigger than him, and in particular, one child, *Chuck* is constantly picking on him and bullying him, and he doesn't know how he is going to handle it. He expresses his feelings and through a number of scenarios, in which the audience participates, and which involves magic tricks and appropriate music. He builds up his confidence sufficiently to the point of being able to confront Chuck, sort out their relationship, and even make a friend of him. Chuck also benefits through the realisation that he can build up HIS self-esteem and need not be a bully anymore, by discussing his problems with teachers, parents or associates whom he can trust in an atmosphere of TEAMWORK.

It is important to realise that the ventriloquist puppet and the magic illusions are only the *medium* to bond with the audience, and the real issue is the efficacy of this medium to provide a visual and vocal association with the key concepts which will remain in the children's minds.

KEY CONCEPTS

In order to derive maximum benefit from the show, it is most desirable that the children be prepared in advance with an understanding of the following terms:

Conflict happens when people have a *disagreement* which can build up into a *fight*.

Fighting gets one nowhere.

Conflict Resolution is learning to deal with each other in a *respectful manner* by solving *differences* peacefully and without fighting.

Self-Esteem is the key to developing *Personal Power* which gives a person the confidence to handle situations of conflict and bullying.

Bullying is when someone deliberately tries to hurt and harm you. It can be *physical* such as pushing, kicking pinching punching and biting, or *verbal*, which is when somebody teases you or calls you names.

Compromise is where each person gives up something of what they want in order to keep the peace. So nobody gets everything, but everyone gets something of what they want, and everyone is happy.

Teamwork is enlisting the support and cooperation of adults whom you can trust, to help you overcome your problems.

SONGS

Stan and Benjy sing the following songs, where the words have been altered sometimes to be more appropriate.

- *What a wonderful world* (made famous by Louis Armstrong)
- *You've got a friend in me* (from “Toy Story”)
- *No matter what they tell you* (Andrew Lloyd Weber)
- *From you I receive – to you I give* (not widely known, but always a hit)
- *When you believe* (from “Prince of Egypt”)
- *I believe* (By Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman)

Audience expectations

The children are encouraged to clap and sing along, and participants are called for the magic tricks.

The show ends with a quiet dismissal for the teachers to take over.