

# Helping children to learn how to problem solve and negotiate with each other

Modelling a script can be a useful way of teaching children how to problem solve together. Used consistently it will help children to recognise and label their own feelings and seek solutions

- **What is the problem?**  
Invite the children to say what they think the problem is. Summarise what they have told you e.g. 'I see John . . . . . you are telling me that . . . . you were playing with the teddy and Jane you wanted a turn so you snatched it from him ..... have I got that right?'
- **Label feelings for the children**  
e.g. 'John, I can see you are cross because you want the teddy back and Jane I can see you are cross about giving the teddy back'
- **Invite the children to make suggestions about how to solve the problem**  
If necessary give some suggestions  
eg Could we find some different soft toys?  
Could we use an egg timer to take turns fairly?
- **Decide what to try**
- **Later – talk with the children**  
Did that work? Do we need to think about it some more?