

Restorative Practices

Peer Mediation

Reflection Sheet: Family

Use the following to think about and/or discuss the video, "Peer Mediation."

- 1. Peer mediation trainer Garfield Smith says that an important part of Peer Mediation is empathy, "We have to see what's going on on the other side of the fence with our nemesis." Think about a time when you came to understand a conflict from your opponent's perspective. How did seeing the issue from another perspective help you in that conflict? How can we help our children to learn the value of looking at a problem from multiple perspectives?

- 2. One key component of the Peer Mediation process is the contract that the disputants develop with the peer mediator. The disputants both contribute to creating a contract that they each agree to. How might you use the concept of a contract after a dispute in your own household to resolve issues and change your child's behavior in the future?

3. Peer Mediation sessions are kept confidential. Why do you think that is an important element of Peer Mediation? As a parent, under what circumstances would it be important to you that the confidentiality of a Peer Mediation be broken to share information about your child with you? Why do you think this would be appropriate?

4. Wendy Halm-Violette explains the value of Peer Mediation, "When students feel empowered, safe, listened to, respected in a confidential environment, it's a no brainer." Why do you think that Peer Mediation more than other disciplinary or justice programs helps students to feel empowered, safe, listened to, and respected?

5. One participant in the Peer Mediation training tells us, "I definitely think that kids who become peer mediators become better communicators in the long run." Based on what you learned from the video, how do you think Peer Mediation can affect children's communication skills? Do you agree or disagree with the participant's perspective on the long-term impact of Peer Mediation? Why?
