

## Reader's Question: Just Let Them Work it Out?

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Kidpower is an educational charitable organization that, since 1989, has brought "People Safety" education to over 1.2 million children, teenagers, and adults, including those with special needs, from many different cultures - close to home and around the world. For publications; free articles, podcasts and e-newsletter; and information about our services and locations, please visit [www.kidpower.org](http://www.kidpower.org).

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Note: The following information is from our Kidpower "People Safety" Solutions book, [Bullying - What Adults Need to Safe](#). Our [Bullying Prevention Resource Page](#) and [Website](#) provide information on our on-line Library with free articles, cost publications for sale; in-person workshops; long-distance coaching; consulting; and curriculum development.



**Reader's Question:** Other parents in my family say that I should not get involved when our children have problems, because they believe that kids should be left to just work it out on their own. What do you think?

**Kidpower Answer:** Until they have the skills to manage problems on their own, children need adult supervision. Most adults will not let children work things out for themselves with cars, fires, knives, or lakes because someone might get hurt. Most adults will not stand by if a child starts throwing blocks through the

window or smashing food into the carpet, because this behavior is destructive even if no one is about to get hurt. So why would adults abandon children by expecting them to work things out for themselves when dealing with problems with people?

As adults, we are responsible for creating cultures of caring, respect, and safety for the young people in our lives. For younger children, positive simple interventions can be very effective in teaching children how to speak up for themselves and to listen to others. For older children, adults can model powerful positive leadership by stepping in to discuss what is going on, stating the values, asking questions to explore whether these values are being met, and exploring options so that everyone can have a good time.