

HIGHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Where...*

*Kindness Is the Key to Everything*

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**Kelso says "HELLO" to all!!!**

Dear Parents,

Has your child ever come up to you about a problem they would like you to solve? And you thought to yourself, they could really solve this by themselves. Or it feels like your child is tattling on their brother or sister constantly? Well, in the next couple of weeks, our students at Highview will be practicing different ways they can solve problems and be reminded of those ways. This conflict management program is called KELSO's Choices. Many of the students are already familiar with Kelso because they use this program at GW Miller.

KELSO's Choices helps our students differentiate between "small" problems and "big" problems that require adult intervention. It also provides nine tangible skills that can be used to solve "small" problems. Here is a brief overview of what our students will be practicing. In the first lesson, the students are taught the difference between "big" and "small" problems. Kelso's Choice assumes that "small" problems can usually be solved by students, and that "big" problems must be shared with an adult. Our students are told small problems occur when their feelings get hurt. For example, a small problem may be when a friend does not share a toy with your child. On the other hand, big problems are things that make a child feel they are in danger, unsafe or if someone can get hurt. Once the students learn the difference between big and small problems, then they are taught the nine ways to solve small problems.

**Walk Away**

**Wait and Cool Off**

**Tell them to stop**

**Make a Deal**

**Ignore it**

**Share and Take Turns**

**Talk it out**

**Apologize**

**Go to another Game**

Our students are told that if one way does not work, try at least 2 more ways. Once they have tried to solve the problem three different ways, then they can ask for help by an adult. To help our students remember these 9 ways to solve problems, there will be a KELSO poster in each classroom. In addition, I have attached a copy of the poster for your use at home.

So, next time your child comes up to you about a problem, ask them this question "Is this problem a BIG or small problem?" Once your child says it's a small problem, ask, "What would KELSO do?" Hopefully your child will be able to answer these questions and be well on their way to solving their own problems!

Sincerely,

Barbara Auriemma, Principal

Melissa Lipson, School Counselor