



Your Way Or My Way?

7

Theme – Self control, dealing with different points of view

It was Friday afternoon and the children were having ‘choosing time’. Katie and Anya headed over to the reading corner where there was a huge box of dressing up clothes.

‘I’m going to be a princess,’ Katie told Anya as she pulled out a shiny white dress with silvery patterns on it. ‘And I’m going to have a big party with lots of people.’

‘I’m going to get all the party food ready,’ Anya told Katie. ‘Good idea!’ said Katie.

Katie put on the dress, and posed in front of the mirror in the dressing up corner, trying out different necklaces and shoes. She chatted to herself as she put them on: ‘Maybe the red beads look best with this dress... or maybe these white ones. Ugh, these brown shoes aren’t princess shoes! Where are the shiny ones?’ And so on.

Meanwhile Anya had arranged the chairs in the reading corner into a circle, with a doll or a teddy on each one. ‘You’re Prince Teddy,’ Anya was saying to a sad-looking Teddy bear. ‘And you can be Lady Lucy,’ she told a scruffy doll with a missing arm. With the guests all ready, Anya put the plastic tea set out, and pretend food on the plates. Lastly, she put two chairs next to each other for herself and Katie.

‘We’re ready for the party,’ Anya told Katie, who was still talking to herself in the mirror. ‘I’m not ready yet,’ Katie replied, trying to find the silver crown.

Realising Katie was going to take ages, Anya decided she’d dress up too. She found a sparkly top and a multi-coloured wig with all sorts of colours in it – yellow, blue, purple and red. She realised she could come to the princess’s party as a famous pop star! That would make it more fun.

After a while Katie decided she’d finished dressing up as a princess, so she turned to Anya and said, ‘I’m ready for my party now...but why are you wearing a clown wig?’

‘It’s not a clown wig,’ Anya explained, ‘I’m a famous pop star coming to your party.’ She pointed at the two empty chairs. ‘That’s where we’re going to sit.’

Katie frowned. ‘But it’s my party!’ she said. ‘I’m a princess and I don’t want a pop star at my party.’ Katie sat down grumpily on one of the two chairs. Anya stood looking at her crossly. ‘Pop-stars are more famous than princesses anyway,’ she said. Katie folded her arms. ‘No they’re not,’ she huffed. ‘And I’m going to sit here. And I’m going to have some party food with my guests.’

‘Why do we have to do it your way?’ Anya asked, but Katie just turned away and pretended to eat with the teddies and dolls. Tears started up in Anya’s eyes. ‘It’s not fair!’ she cried, and ran over to their teacher to complain. Quick as a flash, Katie followed her.

Before the girls could say anything their teacher said, ‘What have we here? A princess and a pop star? You both look gorgeous! So why are you looking fed up?’

‘Anya’s spoilt our game!’ Katie blurted out, ‘I wanted to do it my way!’

‘But I want to do it my way!’ Anya protested. ‘It was me who got the party ready, so I should choose!’

The teacher looked from one girl to the other for a moment. Then he said, ‘That’s a tricky one. Katie wants to do it her way and Anya wants to do it her way. That’s not going to work out, is it?’

‘No!’ said the girls, crossly. ‘At least you agree on that!’ the teacher laughed. ‘So do you agree that if you both want things your own way the game is over?’ The girls looked at each other, then nodded.

‘Ok,’ their teacher continued, ‘do you both want the game to be over?’ Both girls shook their heads. ‘Good!’ their teacher exclaimed. ‘Why don’t you go back to your lovely party and work out a new way to play the game? I bet princesses like pop stars, because they’re both famous aren’t they?’ ‘That’s true,’ Katie said, and Anya nodded.

The girls headed back towards the circle of teddies and dolls all waiting for the party to begin. ‘Perhaps...’ Katie began, ‘Pop-star Anya could be a surprise visitor after the food’s been eaten...’ ‘Mm...’ Anya nodded, ‘and maybe... Pop-star Anya could have made up a special birthday song for Princess Katie?’ ‘Yeah!’ said Katie, a big grin lighting up her face! It would be a great party after all.



Reflection

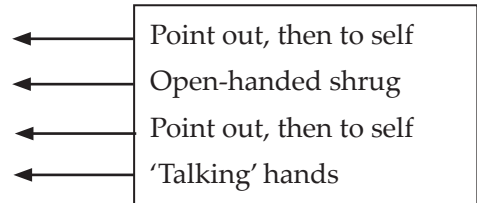
1. What pretend game were Anya and Katie playing?
2. Katie was being a princess. What was Anya pretending to be?
3. Why did they argue about Anya being a pop star?
4. Was either of the girls more to blame than the other?
5. What could they have done instead of arguing?
6. How did the teacher help Anya and Katie to sort things out?
7. How do you sort out disagreements when you're playing with your friends?



Your way or my way? *

I want to do things my way.
You want your way too.
We want to play together,
Don't know what to do.

Your way or my way?
We don't know how to choose.
Your way or my way?
Let's talk it through.



You want to do things outdoors.
That's no good for me.
I want to do things indoors,
But we can't agree.

Your way or my way? ... (etc.)

One day we go your way
Next day we go mine.
When we do things fairly
Everything is fine.

Your way or my way? ... (etc.)