



No Losers with Win-Win

When kids get input in decision-making, they may not get exactly what they want but they learn to find solutions everyone can live with. Explain fairness with the win-win grid.

Using the Win-Win Grid for Decision-making

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| I Win, You Lose | I Win, You Win |
| I Lose, You Lose | I Lose, You Win |

One way to explain a fair, win-win decision-making process to kids is to use the example of a 4-year-old and a 6-year-old who both want their mother to let them have the last piece of candy. After discussing the grid below, ask kids to come up with some solutions where everyone wins.

- Could you split the candy in half?
- Could one child split the candy in half, and the other child choose one to eat?
- Could the 4-year-old eat the candy now and the 6-year-old get two candies when they get home in an hour?
- Could the mother eat the candy now, and the children each get two candies tomorrow?

What's important is to help kids develop the habit of looking for solutions where everyone wins. Also they need to understand that there are going to be decisions that don't please everyone in the group. When kids participate in a process they feel is fair, they may still be unhappy about not getting their first choice, but they learn the importance of win-win.