



Tricks of the Trade provide you with perspectives to help you work effectively with youth, peers, and those you supervise.

Check for understanding often. Things that seem so clear to you may not be viewed in the same way by others. Think about this: if you were taking a trip to the capitol in California, there are many ways to get there. If you work right across the street, you may walk. If you live in San Diego you might fly. If you live in Bakersfield you might drive either up Interstate 5 or Freeway 99. So, if you have in your mind that the way to get to the Capital is by train and taxi, but that is not expressed and you simply talk about going to the Capital, you will be disappointed in the method a co-worker has selected. This can even happen when you have been reasonably clear about something. People don't always mean they understand when they nod their heads

Connect with the school day. You share children and youth. Communicate with them and try to see every situation from their point of view. Imagine each school day staff with a conversation bubble above their head. What are they thinking or what is their caption? You don't have to agree, but it will be helpful and insightful for you to think this way. Then check it out with them.

If you must intervene, do so quickly and effectively. This will save many future challenges. When you don't intervene quickly, children will wonder if they can trust you.