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| **Section: A difficult conversation** | | | |
| **Objective:** | | Children will learn about difficult conversations and what they can do to handle them appropriately.  SEL Competency: Relationship skills  Developmental level: Advanced  Key message: I know how to handle a difficult conversation  Time: 12 mins 30 seconds | |
|  | **Character name** | | **Content:** *Format*  (TONE OF ADDRESS)/‘Lines from script’/song/sound clip no. |
| **1.** | FX (sound FX) | | *STANDARD INTRODUCTORY JINGLE NO.xx* |
| **2.** | Host | | Today we are going to hear a story about a girl called Aminata who has a problem. We’re going to hear how Aminata addressed her problem and how we could handle the same problem in our own lives.  Aminata has to have a difficult conversation. As we will hear together, she is not happy about something very important. She will have to talk to the person who is making her unhappy to fix the problem.  Have you ever had a difficult coversation with someone? |
| **3.** | All | | Yes |
| **4.** | Host | | How did you feel about it? Was it easy or hard?  Did you feel nervous or worried? Or even scared? |
| **5.** | All together | | Scared  Worried  Nervous  Afraid |
| **6.** | Host | | It’s not easy to have difficult conversations. It takes bravery and confidence. Sometimes, we can ask people to help us when we have to have a difficult conversation, but other times, we have to tackle the conversation all on our own.  Let’s hear about Aminata’s difficult conversation! |
| **7.** | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to introduce read aloud story |
| **8.** |  | | In Aminata’s family, everyone contributed in one way or another. Aminata’s older brother worked transporting cassava, bananas, and other local products to the market. He gave some of what he earned to his mother each week, to help pay for his younger brothers’ and sisters’ school, and for other household expenses. Aminata herself sold fruits and vegetables in the market and gave most of what she earned to her mother as well, keeping a small bit for herself. Aminata’s mother woke up before sunrise to fetch water and prepare breakfast before waking her children and her husband. She often did not finish her tasks until after dark. |
| **9.** | FX (sound FX) | | Sound for discussion break |
| **10.** | Host | | Do you know women who work long hours like Aminata’s mother? |
| **11.** | FX (sound FX) | | 15 seconds of sound to let children think and respond |
| **12.** | Host | | Who do you know who work long hours like Aminata’s mother? |
| **13.** | Child A | | My mama works really, really hard. She’s already up working when I wake up and she keeps working all day long! |
| **14.** | Child B | | Mine too |
| **15.** | Child C | | And mine |
|  | Child D | | My mama works really hard, and my older sister does too. They have jobs and they do lots of work in the home to take care of me, my papa and my younger sisters and brothers. |
|  | Host | | Wow! They sound very, very busy! I hope you help them out whenever you can! |
|  | All | | Yes! |
|  | Host | | I’m glad to hear that! Let’s continue with the story! |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to introduce read aloud story |
|  | Host | | Aminata was proud of the way that she and her brother and her mother worked together to keep the household running. But there was one thing that made her very angry. Aminata’s father worked his own land and sold large quantities of cassava and bananas to big buyers from the city. But when he was paid for his crops, he did not give money to Aminata’s mother to help with the household expenses. Instead, he went out with his friends, coming home late and smelling of beer and cigarettes. It wasn’t fair, and Aminata did not like it. But she didn’t know what to do. |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound for discussion break |
|  | Host | | Let’s stop here for a quick discussion. Join in at home by saying your answers to the questions out loud during the pauses!  What would you do in Aminata’s place? (pause)  Again, What would you do in Aminata’s place? |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | 30 seconds of sound to let children think and respond |
|  | Host | | What would you do in Aminata’s place? |
|  | Child B | | I would want to tell her father to stop spending all his time and money with his friends. He should be helping the family too.  I think I’d be too scared to talk to him though. |
|  | Host | | Very good! It’s normal to be afraid to have difficult conversations. Confronting someone older or more powerful than us can be scary, especially when it’s someone that we love. I’m sure Aminata did not want to hurt her father. |
|  | Host | | Let’s continue with the story to find out what Aminata does! |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to introduce read aloud story |
|  | Host | | Aminata decided to talk to her brother about her concern and see what he had to say. “Moussa,” she said, “I don’t like how our father is behaving.” She went on to explain her concern. “It shows a lack of respect for our family,” she said, “and for how hard we all work.” Moussa agreed with his sister. He, too, was feeling angry at their father. “But,” he said, “there is nothing we can do. Father will just say it is his money and his house and that we are impolite children who lack respect.” Aminata and Moussa decided to talk to their mother, to see what she had to say about it. |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound for discussion break |
|  | Host | | Let’s stop here for a quick discussion. Join in at home by saying your answers to the questions out loud during the pauses!  What do you think about how Aminata is handling this situation? Why? (pause)  Again, What do you think about how Aminata is handling this situation? Why? |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | 30 seconds of sound to let children think and respond |
|  | Host | | What do you think about how Aminata is handling this situation? Why? |
|  | Child C | | I think she was really smart to talk to her brother. They can work together to speak with their mother. That way maybe they can fix the problem together. |
|  | Host | | Very good! When you have to have a difficult conversation, it can be really helpful to speak to people beforehand. That way, you can find other people who feel the same way. Aminata’s brother, Moussa, was also annoyed with their father. He wanted things to change too.  Let’s hear what happens next! |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to introduce read aloud story |
|  | Host | | When Aminata and Moussa approached their mother, they found her hard at work, as usual. Their father was not around—his work day had finished, they knew, but he was not at home. “Mama,” Aminata began, “we would like to speak to you about something. Mama looked up, surprised at her older children’s serious tone. “Yes?” she said, and they began.  It was not easy to speak about their father in this way, and Aminata and Moussa felt uncomfortable. But their mother listened until they were done, and then said, “I’m very surprised. I never thought my children would speak to me about my relationship with their father in this way. This is none of your business.”  Aminata and Moussa could tell that their mother was very angry, and they felt sorry to have made her upset. Aminata wanted to leave her mother in peace, but Moussa pushed on. “We’re sorry to make you upset Mama,” he said, “it’s only because we love you and we want the household to run well. Please can you help us talk to our father?” |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound for discussion break |
|  | Host | | Ok, let’s stop here for a quick discussion. Join in at home by saying your answers to the questions out loud during the pauses!  Do you think that Aminata and Moussa should speak to their parents this way? What are the good sides and the bad sides of what they are doing? (pause)  Again, Do you think that Aminata and Moussa should speak to their parents this way? What are the good sides and the bad sides of what they are doing? |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | 30 seconds of sound to let children think and respond |
|  | Host | | Do you think that Aminata and Moussa should speak to their parents this way? What are the good sides and the bad sides of what they are doing? |
|  | Child D | | I think they should be allowed to say how they feel if they do it politely and with respect but if their parents get angry, they could get in lots of trouble. |
|  | Child A | | They were trying to help their mother, and their father, so I think its ok. |
|  | Child B | | I think they should just be careful in case they make their mother and father so angry that they start shouting. They might even beat them. |
|  | Child C | | I think I would stop like Aminata when I saw my mama becoming upset. She’s lucky to have an older brother like Moussa to help her. |
|  | Host | | Well done! Their father’s actions affected the whole family and Aminata and Moussa wanted him to make some changes. They love their father and they wanted him to be there for the family more than he was.  They were respectful and compassionate when they spoke to their mother about the problem. They were not rude.  But it is a very difficult topic to talk about, so it’s understandable that their mother was angry at first. She was very surprised that her children wanted to get involved.  Let’s see what happens next |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to introduce read aloud story |
|  | Host | | At first, Mama refused. She called the children impolite and rude and said they were worried about things that didn’t concern them. Aminata and Moussa explained that it *did* concern them, they cared about their mother and the house and the younger children, and that this was an important matter. Finally, after a lot of discussion, Mama agreed to join her children in speaking to their father.  The next morning, as Papa took his tea, Aminata, Moussa, and Mama approached and sat down next to him. This was very surprising to Papa, usually he took his tea alone while the others worked to get ready for the day. Mama began, “your children and I wish to speak to you,” she said, and went on to explain their concern. All three could see Papa getting angrier and angrier as she spoke. Finally he threw down his tea and left, saying, “I don’t have to listen to this. This is MY house and you speak of MY money.” Aminata, Moussa, and Mama looked at each other sadly.  “Don’t worry Mama,” Aminata said, “this is a big challenge. Papa is hard headed, but he knows we love him and that we only want what’s best. We will keep trying until he hears us.”  And so they did. |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | Sound to end story break |
|  | Host | | Wow! What an interesting story! Aminata and Moussa were very brave to have this difficult conversation with their mother and father.  They faced many, many challenges in the story. Can you remember any of them? Say your answers out loud at home! (pause)  Again, they faced many, many challenges in the story. Can you remember any of them? |
|  | FX (sound FX) | | 30 seconds of sound to let children think and respond |
|  | Host | | Can you remember any of the challenges faced by Aminata and Moussa? |
|  | Child A | | They had to convince their mama to talk to their papa |
|  | Child B | | They had to stay strong when both mama and papa were angry and upset at them |
|  | Child C | | They will have to keep trying to talk to papa until he hears them and changes |
|  | Host | | Very good. You were listening hard! Aminata and Moussa didn’t just just have one difficult conversation. They had many. And they might have to have many more until they are heard.  Sometimes this happens. We have to ask over and over again until we are heard. It’s important that we don’t get discouraged and give up.  We can keep having difficult conversations when we are trying to fix a very important problem. As long as we are kind and respectful, and it is safe for us, we can try again and again and again.  Do you think Aminata, Moussa, and their mother were able to convince Papa to change his ways?  What do you think at home? Do you think they were able to convince papa to change? |
|  | FX (Sound FX) | | 15 seconds for children to think and respond |
|  | Host | | What do you think? |
|  | Child A | | Yes |
|  | Child B | | No |
|  | Child C | | Yes |
|  | Child D | | Yes |
|  | Host | | (Child B) Why do you think they were not able to convince their father to change? |
|  | Child B | | Because he was so angry and he left. He is the man of the house and so he is in charge. |
|  | Host | | Yes, (Child B), he was very angry when Aminata, Moussa and Mama tried to speak to him the first time. And he did get up and leave.  It’s true that we don’t know what happens next. Maybe you’re correct and he does not change. But I think he might.  Can anyone guess why I think this? what do you think at home? |
|  | FX (Sound FX) | | 15 seconds for children to think and respond |
|  | Host | | Well? What do you think? Can anyone guess why I think papa might change his behaviour? |
|  | Child A | | Because Aminata, Moussa are going to try again. |
|  | Child C | | And they have their mother helping them. |
|  | Child D | | And Aminata says their father knows that his family love him and only want what’s best for the whole family. I think he will listen to them when he’s in a better mood. Maybe he was ashamed when they spoke to him the first time or maybe he needs some time to think about what they said. I think he’s going to change! |
|  | Host | | Very good. That’s why I think he might change. Aminata, Moussa and their mother clearly love him and maybe when he takes some time, he’ll see that they are only trying to help everyone in the family.  What did you learn today about having difficult conversations? |
|  | Child A | | To find someone to help you if you can. |
|  | Child B | | Yeah, because you might not be the only person who wants to have the difficult conversation |
|  | Child C | | To stay polite and kind and calm when you’re having the difficult conversation. Even if the other person is mad or upset. If you are calm and kind they will hear you in the end! |
|  | Child D | | Sometimes you have to have the same difficult conversation lots of times before things change. |
|  | Host | | Well done! |