

**Chocolate Kisses (Win-Win Problem Solving)**  
**6th Grade Advisement Activity**  
**Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes**

**Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework**

Goal: 6-3.2 Develop positive, highly-developed interpersonal skills

e. Rehearse effective conflict-management skills

f. Describe ways in which one accepts responsibility for his/her behavior

**Materials:** Chocolate Kisses or some other cheaper candy; table with chairs or desk pulled together to mimic a table.

**Scripted Activity:**

1. *Greet students:* “Good morning, welcome to advisement. Today we are going to learn how we can all be winners. Most of us think that conflict is always a contest where people either win or lose. In fact, nearly all conflicts can be approached from a Win-Win perspective where both parties are satisfied with the outcome. This is called a Win-Win process. If Win-Win becomes your way of thinking, we can participate in problem-solving processes that result in Win-Win solutions. We are all winners in the end.
2. *Say:* We are going to play a game. The object of the game is to acquire as many chocolate kisses as you can. We need two volunteers to come sit at this table. Each volunteer will represent one half of the larger group. *Identify two volunteers who are approximately the same size, and share the same handedness (both right handed or left handed). Then identify the half of the group that each volunteer is representing. Position volunteers so that they are facing each other across the table, their right or left elbows are on the table, and they are clasping each other’s hands. This is an arm wrestling position but do not use the term. If someone says that this looks like are wrestling, explain that it’s similar, but the rules are very different.*
3. *Say:* The object of the game is for each person to get as many chocolates as possible for her or his *team* in the time allowed. *Note that you can also call the game “Points” if you don’t have or don’t want to use chocolates.* The rules are as follows:
  - From now on the two players may not speak to each other,
  - Every time the back of one person’s hand touches the table, the other team will receive a chocolate.
  - Someone from each team needs to keep track of the number of chocolates the team receives.
  - You will have 30 seconds to get a many chocolates as you can.
4. *Say:* “Begin”, and after 30 seconds, say “Stop.” Participants will probably compete against each other and will probably only get a few chocolates or none. *Discuss what happened. Ask:* What did you see? How many chocolates did each team receive? If the player received very few chocolates, ask, “What was the goal of the game? *Ask:* Can anyone think of another way to play the game so teams can get more chocolates. (Usually groups will suggest ways that the two students can alternate, placing the back of the person’s hand on the table.)
5. After the group offers suggestions, play one more round and ask participants to describe what was different when they played the game the second time. *You might also ask:* What words describe the approach you used this time? How do these two approaches to the game reflect ways that you handle conflict? *NOTE: Watch for additional situations to debrief. Sometimes*

*it will take a few rounds before students are cooperating easily---we can't always incorporate new ways of behaving after simply hearing them. Some student volunteers will say having an audience made it harder. Other student volunteers will bring up issues of vulnerability and trust, that is, even when they had an image of going back and forth, they didn't want to be first to "give in." Each of these comments can foster important conversations and insights.*

6. *Explain the concept once again:* This game demonstrates that conflict doesn't always have to be a Win-Lose contest. In our highly competitive society it is assumed that for me to get what I want and need, I have to win and you have to lose. This is called Win-Lose. Think about the following questions: Why do Win-Lose thinking have such a powerful hold on our society? In what situations of your life do you experience the strongest Win-Lose messages? Does school reinforce a Win-Lose approach to problems or life in general? A Win-Win approach to working out problems is the one that we will use in this advisory. Solutions will be non-violent, meets some important needs of all parties involved, and helps to maintain positive relationships.
7. *Say:* I hope you will consider using this approach in all aspects of your life at school, at home and anywhere that you might find yourself in a conflicting situation. Remember we can all be winners if use the right approach to solving our problems. See you next time. Have a great day!