

# *Enjoy a Docia Story*

## *— about “Parent Meetings” —*

from Docia Zavitkovsky

We were having a staff meeting and discussing when it was appropriate for adults to intervene in children’s disputes. One of the teachers recounted how Barry and Andy were fighting over a shovel and Barry punched Andy. The teacher moved toward the children and watched Andy, who was trying to express anger through words. He stood nose to nose with Barry, put his hands on his hips, and said, “If you do that again, if you do that again, I won’t let you see my mother’s wart.”

The teacher said there was no need for her to intervene because Andy had taken care of the problem himself. She was interested in Barry’s reaction. He didn’t seem as much concerned about not getting to see the wart as he was about losing Andy’s friendship and companionship.

The teacher said, “I learned from this experience that there are times when immediate action is called for, but often if one waits children will solve problems without adults interfering.”

Amen to that. After all, we want children to be able to communicate with one another and be responsible for their behavior and actions, don’t we?

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*Docia Zavitkovsky has furthered the cause of young children as a practitioner in the field for over 45 years and as past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Known far and wide for her storytelling, she has traveled extensively as an early childhood consultant, lecturer, and adventurer.*