Preventing Classroom Conflict

1. Spacious work areas with enough materials for all children.
Consider this scenario: Your sensory table is pushed up against the wall. Many children choose this area during Worktime. How can you be proactive in preventing social conflict?

2. Predictable daily routine.
Consider this scenario: Depending on the day, your daily routine may or may not include outside time. Sometimes Worktime comes early in the morning, sometimes it comes after lunch. How does a predictable daily routine affect social conflict?

3. Children carrying out their own plans during Worktime.
Consider this scenario: Some days during Worktime you have a 'project' for the children to complete in small groups. You ask them to join you at the table. How would the interruption of their chosen plans increase the amount of social conflict?

4. Children having choices during group times and transitions.
Consider this scenario: Every day children are told to 'line up' at the door. Whoever gets there first gets to be the 'leader.' How does a lack of choice at transition impact social conflict?

5. Group activities being planned around children's interests.
Consider this scenario: You go to various websites to find projects and crafts for Small Group time. Children sometimes resist participating. How does planning based on children's interests impact social conflict?

6. Little or no waiting before getting started on activities.
Consider this scenario: As you transition to Large Group you tell the children you'll "wait until they are ready." You start the activity when everyone is sitting at the circle. How does wait time impact social conflict?

7. Adults helping children identify and express their feelings.
Consider this scenario: When children begin to argue and tussle over a toy, you take it and tell them that they have to share. How does identification of feelings impact children's ability to resolve social conflict?

8. Adults making daily observations and anecdotal notes about children.
Consider this scenario: You try to make mental notes to yourself of each child's plans and interests. How does knowing your children, and children's confidence in knowing that you know, decrease the amount of social conflict?