

## **HANDOUT 8D Examples of Neutral Problem Statements for School-Age Children**

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**Problem: Morning routine, siblings fighting before school**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** We both like those mornings before school when we get along well. Let's think and talk about ways we can make that happen more often.

**Problem: Kids leaving bikes outside where they could be stolen**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** I'm glad you have fun riding your bikes. Let's talk about how to keep them safe.

**Problem: Siblings fighting**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** It's really cool that you guys hang out together so much. Let's talk about how you can get along better.

**Problem: Bedtime routine/going to sleep**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** We both like to have time to read together before bed. Let's think about ways to make sure we have that time.

**Problem: Kids fighting in the car**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** Remember last night when we were all laughing in the car? Let's think and talk about ways we can make that happen more often.

**Problem: Forgetting to feed pets**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** I love how you hug and play with Kitty. Let's talk about how we can make sure she gets fed every day.

**Problem: Homework not completed**

**Neutral Problem Statement:** I know how happy you were when you got that good grade in math. Let's talk about how we can make that happen more often.