

Story for all ages
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This is a true story---and it happened to me.

A long time ago I was teaching 3rd grade. I remember that this class liked to laugh, they liked to learn, they could be kind of active and there even were a few who could sometimes be naughty. This story happened midway through the year so we knew one another pretty well. The whole class was sitting on the floor in a circle and we were having a class meeting. In the class meetings we would talk about problems the class was having and how we might solve them or things we were doing well on. Sometimes children would share how they were feeling about something. On this particular day, our meeting was going along as usual when a little boy named Jared raised his hand. He had a very serious expression on his face. I couldn't imagine what he was going to say. He suddenly blurted out that his mom and dad were going to get a divorce. He dropped his head into his hands and he started to cry. Now I had no idea that this was happening in his family and my mouth dropped open and my mind was thinking what should I say what should I say and I was coming up with nothing. And then another child in the class, a girl named Maureen, started to speak. She said, "That must be really hard. You must feel really sad." And she got up and went over to sit next to Jared. She knew that he needed a friend. Then the other children started talking---offering support and friendship. I could see that Jared was feeling better as he was surrounded by his classmates.

I learned something that day. I found out that children, even young children sometimes know the right thing to say when the adults don't. And that no matter how old you are, it can be good to be in a group with other people and to share your feelings.