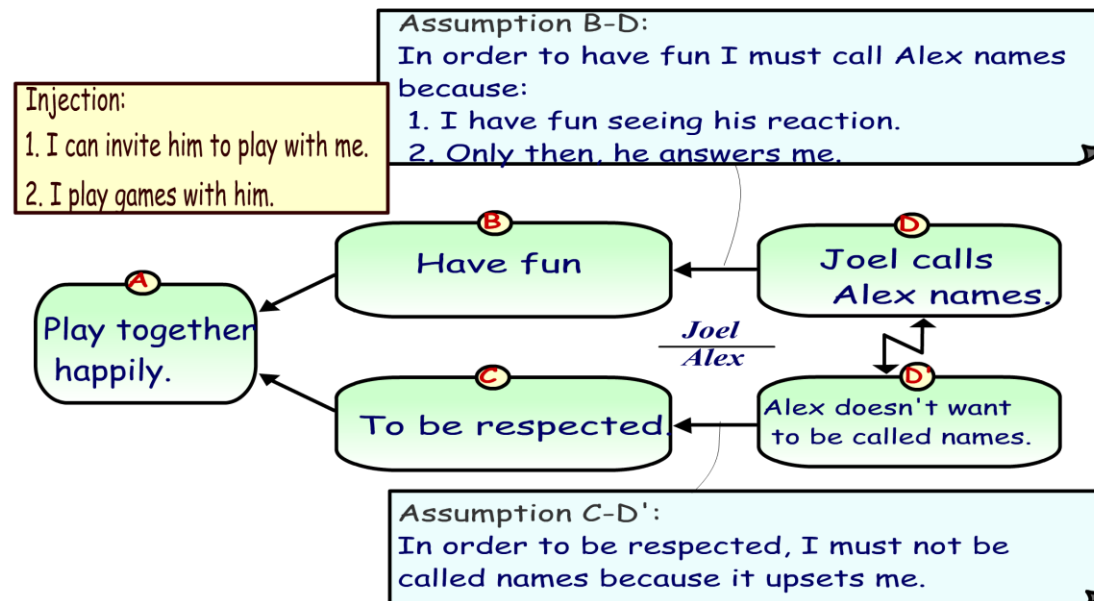


TOC MEDIATION TO STOP NAME CALLING

After recess, two boys were sent to my room. Joel for calling Alex names and Alex for using vulgar language and biting Joel on his arm till it bled. Previously, I would have mourned inwardly and handled the problem before sending them back to their classes. After they leave my room, I would file their case sheets in the Misbehaviour File for future reference. But today, I was looking forward to empowering these two boys to resolve their own conflict. It was heartening to note how easily they got the hang of how to use the Cloud template. After writing that to have fun, he needed to call Alex names, Joel immediately looked at me sheepishly and said that it wasn't really true! On surfacing his assumptions, he himself saw that they did not stand up to scrutiny. In fact, he came up with his own injection and said that he could invite Alex to play with him. Joel could also understand Alex's need to be respected. He promised not to call Alex names again.



The situation also lent itself very much to the use of the Negative Branch. As the incident has just occurred and he was one of the main characters in it, Joel could draw the N.Br very fast. In fact he extrapolated and said, "If we are sent to the VP's office, we will miss out on revision. If we miss out on revision, we will not do well at CA. If we do not do well in CA, everybody is unhappy." In introducing the N.Br technique and helping Joel and Alex think through the negative aspects of their behaviour by themselves, I sincerely believe I have given them a framework on which they can critically assess any intended plans of action in future and modify them accordingly before carrying them out. It seems a very simple tool but one that would have far-reaching impact on both their lives if they internalise it. In empowering them, I have empowered myself. And it felt wonderful!

---For the Negative Branch see next page ---

Both boys apologised to each other for the hurt they have caused the opposite party. They were very specific about what they were sorry for - they have been surfaced very visually on the cloud. I could tell they really meant it from the bottom of their hearts. They promised that they would never hurt each other in the same way. I believed them totally. Conflicts are bound to happen sometimes but I trust that they would not have to experience the same conflict situation again with each other. If they have the same conflict with another, I am confident that they would know how to resolve it because they have been empowered with the tools.

