

CS#4 A Stich In Time

Sociology:

Having power and being powerless is a consistent struggle between parents, teachers, and school staff, as present in the case study "*A Stich in Time*." When it comes to a power balance in the classrooms or a scenario like the one presented, the students are often powerless. In this instance, Jayce did not have the support he needed due to his IEP, while Kyle reacted incorrectly and added fuel to Jayce's fire. One could view this situation as Kyle having more power than Jayce but choosing to do the wrong thing since Kyle was aware that Jayce struggles with behavioural issues and can easily snap. Still, he decided to fight back rather than apologize and move on. While Jayce lacked support, he could not control his emotions or others. The teachers and staff also share powerlessness in this scenario because they needed to help another student who was having a crisis and left Jayce alone. Based on the case study, there was mention that the school is understaffed. On the other hand, Kyle's father took every ounce of power he could by claiming that Jayce was a bully and took it a step too far.

Implications of Practice:

One thing that would help my students and parents feel safe would be to send home a sheet where they talk to each other and write things down on the list that would help them feel secure and what they expect. The following day, I would have the student's hand in the sheets, and we would work together to create a "Safe Space Contract" that the class would sign together to ensure that everyone knows what's expected to make the classroom a safe space for all students. In my practicum classroom, my teacher mentor had a similar "School/Classroom Rules

Contract” that the teacher and the class signed at the beginning of the school year; based on what I observed, this contract helped all students know what to expect and how to act. Which is why I thought of the “Safe Place Contract.”