

# The Caterpillar

The caterpillar appears in all the books. He is based on the role of a counsellor in some of the stories and mediator in others. He models skills and techniques we can use in our everyday lives to improve how we deal with difficult situations.

Curly the caterpillar does not try and fix things because he knows that if people can work things out for themselves they will be better in the long run. Sometimes parent and adults who have children in their care do need to sort things out but, if time can be taken to listen and help the child reflect on how they feel and think, it would really be helpful for the child (see download on Listening)

Curly also teaches the children how to negotiate and resolve their own disputes. The processes used in these books are taken from The S.A.L.T. Programme: Creative Solutions for Conflict in Primary Schools, written by Fiona McAuslan and widely available in schools in Ireland and parts of the UK.



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