

# Fighting In The Family

---

## Eric's Quiet Time

Once upon a time there was a boy named Eric. More than anything else in the world, Eric wished for silence. Do you know why? It was because Eric's parents were always yelling at each other. When he woke up in the morning they were yelling at each other. When he went to bed at night they were yelling. Some of the time they tried to hide their arguing from him by going into a separate room and shutting the door, but Eric could still hear them, even with the TV turned up loud. Eric just wanted them to be quiet. Their arguing made him very upset.

One day Eric's teacher found him crying at school. She tried to talk to him, but he didn't want to talk. "Is everything okay?" his teacher asked. "Everything is not okay," said Eric. "I just want things to be quiet." "What do you mean?" said his teacher. "My parents are always yelling at each other. I have to turn the TV up to drown them out, but I can still hear them," he said. "That's terrible," said the teacher. "Maybe the school counselor can talk to your parents about working out their problems more quietly, and away from you." "They'll probably just yell at her," grumbled Eric.

Eric was wrong. When the counselor told his parents what had happened, they realized how much they had been yelling. The counselor told them other ways to talk to each other about problems, like writing them down, or even seeing a counselor themselves. More than anything else they loved Eric and they wanted his home to be a quiet and comforting place.

Even though they still argued sometimes, they were much quieter. Eric thought they also seemed to argue less frequently. They also started to have family meetings once a week. At a family meeting you could talk about anything that bothered you. Quietly, of course.

**MORAL:** Some couples fight a lot and this upsets children. If they fight too much, they should get some help for everyone's sake.

## Tell a Story

Tell or write a story about a family where everyone argued all of the time.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Use What You Learned

Who do you go to if you are concerned about problems at home? Is there an adult in your family or at school who can help you with family problems?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---