**Social Problem Solving: Professional Development Module**  
**Transcript for Slide 11 – Teaching Children Steps in Advance**

Narrator: Conflicts between peers occur in all pre-school classrooms. Often, that's because young children are just figuring out how their own actions affect other people and that their friends may not always want the same thing as them. Sometimes, even if children are able to consider the other person's perspective, they simply don't have the tools to come up with solutions that are fair and safe for everyone. That's where the strategy of problem-solving comes in. It's all about empowering children to independently and effectively resolve disagreements. This strategy, including the activities and procedures, is adapted from the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations For Early Learning's preschool training modules. In this section, we'll cover a few effective ways of preparing children to solve problems before they occur. First, you can introduce this problem-solving solution kit, which is part of The Center on the Social Emotional Foundations For Early Learning's resources. It includes picture cards with possible solutions for typical pre-school problems. Watch how this teacher not only introduces the cards, but also models ways to use them with her teaching partner.

Teacher: What are these kids doing?

Child 1: Saying please

Child 2: Please!

Teacher: Very good. She is using nice words. Tania, can you please share your turtle with me?

(teacher speaks Spanish)

Narrator: You can also let children practice problem solving like this teacher does.

Teacher: What happens if you don't get the computer right away and you really want one.

Child: You scream, you scream.

Teacher: Screaming. Will that solve the problem?

Together: No.

Teacher: You say, "Can I have a turn when you're done?" You could ask the friend, Can I have a turn when you're done?"

Child: Or start a list!

Teacher: Or maybe start a list. Those are great solutions.

Narrator: This teaching was preparing children for solving problems that typically arise when new items are available in the classroom. Here's a teaching playing a what would you do game.

Teacher: Wants to play with blocks, but I want to play with paint. What should I do? What can they do? They already found the solution kit. Now tell me the solution. Who knows?

Child: Me! Me!

Teacher: Who knows?

(Teacher speaks in Spanish)

Child: Play together.

Narrator: Both examples are ways to help children develop problem solving skills. Another great way to prepare children to handle conflict is through book readings. When reading a book, stop when there's a problem and have the children brainstorm possible solutions. Then, ask them to consider, is the solution safe, is the solution fair, and how would everyone feel. Preschoolers are still learning to take the perspective of others. These techniques are great ways to help them think about how others might feel in different situations. They also teach children the skills they need to handle problems when disagreements do occur.