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Relational and Overt Aggression in Middle Childhood: A Comparison of Hypothetical and Reported Conflicts

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**RELATIONAL AND OVERT AGGRESSION IN MIDDLE CHILDHOOD:
A COMPARISON OF HYPOTHETICAL AND REPORTED CONFLICTS**

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Following recent research patterns in childhood conflict, the current study examined individual differences and gender trends in conflict resolution styles. Relational and overt aggression were investigated in 32 fourth and fifth graders by use of a multi-method evaluation that included peer and teacher nominations, hypothetical conflict vignettes, and personal reported conflicts. Based on previous studies, it was hypothesized that girls will use relational aggression more often than boys, that boys will display overt aggression more often than girls, and that children of both sexes will report the use of prosocial resolution methods in hypothetical situations more often than they actually employ them in real-life conflicts. Initial data analysis suggests strong internal consistency across the relational and overt aggression scales, as well as among the measures used in this study.