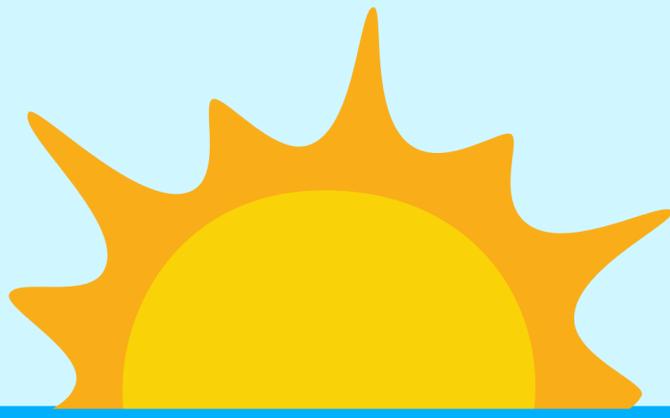


Pointing Fingers



By: Kaylee Mecham



Taylor and Riley had been looking forward to going to the beach all week and today was the day.

"Let's build a sandcastle!" Taylor said.

"That will be so fun!" Riley agreed.

The two brothers set to work. "Let's build the castle here!"

Riley suggested when they were just where the waves would reach their toes as they worked.

They started filling their buckets with sand, packing them in tight to build a spectacular castle.



But when the boys turned the buckets over, the sand fell to the ground. They tried again, but it wouldn't hold its shape. While both boys were getting more frustrated, Riley said, "There must be something wrong with this sand! It's not working!"

Taylor pointed a finger at Riley and said, "Well this is your fault then for picking a spot too close to the water."

Riley was hurt by Taylor's words, but decided to let it go and try to build a castle then. "Since I put us too close to the water, what if you pick the spot this time?"



Taylor agreed and ran off to find a new spot for their castle. He wanted to make sure the sand wasn't too wet, so he went far away from the water. They were even behind mom with her umbrella and blanket.

The boys were excited to build their castle. They packed their buckets tight with sand, turned them over and whomph, all the sand fell to the ground and didn't hold its shape.

Riley pointed a finger at Taylor and shouted "This sand is too dry. We're never going to be able to build a sandcastle here! This is your fault."

"You chose wrong first!" Taylor shot back.



Mom had been watching her boys and decided to jump in, "I think you have both found two places where you won't be able to build sandcastles. The problem is not the sand itself, but the distance from the water. Why don't the two of you move in between the two spots and see how things go then?"

The boys listened to their mother and soon had a beautiful sandcastle built. Mom told them, "Remember, boys, always look at the bigger picture. Blaming each other for problems will never solve anything. In this family we look at the systems that are holding us back instead of accusing villains. And that is how we change the world!"

