



May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Get children involved in solving problems



Take advantage of daily opportunities to solve problems with children. Help children describe the problem and encourage them to draw on their knowledge and experiences to think of possible solutions and to decide on the best option. Even young children can be involved in conversations about problems that arise – although at first, the adult will be the one suggesting the solution!

Elaborated conversations like these expose children to a wide variety of words (*e.g.*, “problem”, “solution”, “solve”, “suggestion”, “opinion”, etc.) and the kind of thinking and language that are associated with school success.



For Children with Language Delays

Children with delays in their language development often have difficulty using language to solve problems. Show a child how to think about problem solving by identifying a problem, relating it to the child’s past experiences, evaluating options for solutions and deciding on a solution.

Learning to Talk

For children who have started to use words and form short sentences

Talking to Learn

For children who talk in complete sentences

Daily Activities

Involve children in conversations about small problems as they arise throughout the day. For example, “Uh-oh, we forgot your socks. Should we go back and get them?” Look at the child expectantly to give her a chance to reply.



When small problems arise throughout the day, encourage the child to offer a solution. For example, “Oh no, we’ve run out of carrots. We don’t have any carrots to put in our soup. What can we do?”

Play Time

If you notice one of the child’s toys is damaged, draw his attention to the problem and offer a solution. For example, “Uh-oh, your teddy bear has a hole in it! What can we do?” Give him a few seconds to think about it, and then offer a solution if he isn’t ready to offer one himself. For example, “Maybe I can fix the hole. Let’s get some thread to sew it up!”



When a child is playing with a toy car, join in the play with your own toy. Introduce a problem and encourage the child to think of a solution. For example, “Oh no, my car has run out of gas! How am I going to get home? Do you have any **solutions?**”

Book Reading

Draw the child’s attention to a problem in a book and help her think about ways the problem could be solved. For example, in a “lift the flap” book about a dog how hides in different plays, say, “Uh-oh. Spot’s mommy has a big **problem**. She can’t find Spot! Where is he?” Wait expectantly for the child to respond with words or by pointing to the picture.



When finished reading a book, talk about the problem in the story and ask the child to think of alternative ways it could have been solved. For example, “What else could the little pigs have done to protect themselves from the wolf?”

On the Go

If the sky looks grey when you step outside for a walk, draw the child’s attention to a potential problem the might arise, as well as a solution. For example, “Uh-oh, it’s going to rain! Look at the sky. Let’s go and get our umbrellas. That way, we won’t get so wet!”



While playing outside with friends, draw the children’s attention to a problem and see if they can think of a solution. For example, “Oh no, the skipping rope broke! What can we do about it?”