



## Problem Solving

### Why is problem solving important in numeracy?

- We use problem solving to question and explore different solutions to problems. This is a valuable skill in daily living.
- Problem solving allows us to use our experiences to figure out solutions.

### How can I help my child?

Together with your child, try these activities:

- Ask: How would you...? How could you...? and How do you know?
- Play puzzle games like Tic-Tac-Toe or word games.
- Play dice, card or board games that use strategy to help a player win.
- Use blocks or other building materials to try building the tallest tower.
- Read a map to find the shortest route between two places.
- Make a picture using shapes. Figure out how many smaller shapes can fit inside the bigger shapes.
- Make different combinations of coins to equal amounts such as \$1.00, \$2.00 or \$10.00.
- Travel to several places to run errands. Decide in what order you should visit these places to complete your errands in the shortest amount of time. Keep the time of day in mind as you plan.
- Try online games or puzzles that require strategies to problem solve.
- Talk to your child's teacher about how problem solving skills are developed and practiced in the classroom.

### Find out more:

- Watch these videos to find out more:
  - [Alberta Education: Numeracy Video](#)
  - [Alberta Education: My Child's Math A Guide for Parents](#)
- Read about helping to develop problem solving skills: [The 7 Mathematical Processes: Problem Solving](#)

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