



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](#)

This resource is protected under copyright with all rights reserved by the Board of Trustees of Edmonton Public Schools (“EPSB”). EPSB permits its teachers and staff, as well as third-parties, to use said resource for the purpose of individual classroom training or advancing general educational interests, without seeking permission. Any and all alteration, modification, distribution, transmission, public performance or display, or other exploitation of said resource in any form or any means in whole or in part, in its original or any other form, is expressly prohibited without the prior written permission of EPSB. © 2020 Board of Trustees of Edmonton Public Schools.

Every effort has been made to trace ownership of all copyrighted material and to secure permission from copyright holders. In the event of any question arising as to the use of any materials, we will be pleased to make necessary corrections in future printings.

EPSB is not responsible for any outcome deriving from your use of or reliance on this resource, whereby all such use or reliance, if any, is at your sole risk. EPSB retains the right to update new editions.

Last updated: March 2020