



Math Problem Solving Teachable Moments

Below are some tips to continue the learning at home and encourage your child to improve their Problem Solving skills. For more information, please ask your SPARK! 4 Kids teacher for more support!

1. Give children hands on opportunities to participate in hands-on activities.

- Offer children interesting items to explore, such as magnets, found objects, and broken (but safe) appliances. Rotate your materials to keep them fresh and thought-provoking.

2. Allow children to explore items in new and diverse ways.

- Strings of colored beads, for example, can become reins for a racehorse, hair for a doll, links for measuring, or tools to press into clay to make designs.

3. Encourage children's suggestions and solutions.

- Promote brainstorming by asking open ended questions: "What can you do with a...?" "How many ways can you...?" Listen carefully to children's ideas.

4. Allow children to find their own solutions.

- Offer help when they become frustrated, but don't solve their problems for them.

5. Use literature to integrate learning.

- Share books that show how characters solve problems, such as *King of the Playground* by Phyllis Naylor, *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina, *Ish* by Peter Reynolds, and *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin.



Adapted from Scholastic

