



Summary

What are Problem Solving Visuals, anyway?

- Problem solving visuals, often called The Solution Kit, include pictures that demonstrate the 4 steps of the problem-solving process and pictures that demonstrate possible solutions.

What's the Point?

- Helps children learn new skills and feel supported as they problem solve.
- Helps children feel confident in taking ownership of their problems.
- Encourages children to participate in brainstorming solutions.
- Visuals support children with diverse learning needs (dual language learners/language delay).
- Helps educators use clear and positive language to support children as they learn to become good problem solvers.

How Do I Do This?

- When children are experiencing a problem, observe and then approach with visuals on hand.
- Support children to label their emotions, ("You look frustrated tell me about it").
- Help the children to identify the problem ("You seem to both want the same toy").
- Use visuals of potential solutions to help children brainstorm and choose a solution to try (taking turns, using a timer, play together...).
- Use visuals to support children to decide if the solution is fair and safe.
- Use visuals to encourage children to try their solution and give positive descriptive feedback ("That sounds like a great idea, try it out!").
- Problem solving visuals can be used during group time activities to pre-teach and reflect on these skills.

How Will the Children Participate in This Practice?

- Pictures of the children engaging in problem solving can be used as visuals.
- Children can brainstorm their own solutions for problem solving kit.
- Children can refer to posted visuals to initiate and engage in problem solving with peers.
- Children can use posted visuals independently to guide their problem solving.

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Educator posts visuals of the process and of possible solutions in the classroom at children's eye level. (Educator can create visuals with team/children or use the solution kit provided)	
Educator and team use visuals to pre-teach children the problem-solving process and practice solution finding during planned group activities.	
Educators use visuals to support children, as they work through the problem solving process in naturally occurring situations.	
Educator uses visuals of possible solutions to encourage the children to find a solution. Children may also brainstorm other solutions to solve their problem. Once children agree on a solution, they give it a try!	
Educator uses visuals to give children reminders about the problem solving steps and possible solutions throughout the daily routine.	
Educator uses the visuals to comment on and recognize children that are participating in problem solving, using positive descriptive feedback	
Educators document observations when children have engaged in problem solving and shares stories with the family.	
Educators provide families with visuals as needed or encourage them to make their own.	

Children can learn about problem solving with persistent role models who actively engage children in processes of playful exploration, investigation, and problem solving.

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 100

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

