



What Can A Parent Do To Promote Thinking?

“Children grow into the intellectual life around them.”

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of **Problem-solving** means: Problems can be defined broadly as situations in which we experience uncertainty or difficulty in achieving what we want to achieve. Problems arise when an obstacle prevents us reaching an objective. We then use a series of steps to find an answer to the question when the solution is not immediately known.

Ideas and tips for parents for this skill:

The steps involved are:

- Describe the situation
- Define the problem
- Invent alternatives
- Critique the alternatives with pros and cons
- Choose a plan
- Implement the plan
- Reflect on the outcome

Asking open-ended questions like the ones below encourages our students to think for themselves, be creative, and promotes thinking that can lead to a clear solution.

Literature that support the application of this skill:

Dr. DeSoto – William Stieg

Dog Breath – Dav Pilkey

Loser – Jerry Spinelli

Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

Thunder Cave –Roland Smith

Questions that a parent can ask his/her child to reinforce this skill:

- What possible approaches to this problem can you think of?
- What other strategies could you use?
- What alternatives could you consider?
- Why might this strategy be better than the others?
- What do you think...?
- What would you do...?