



Wee Learners(4 - 5 years): 10 Ways to Teach your Children to be Problem Solvers

The ability to problem solve is foundational to a child's learning and the building of their self-confidence and self-esteem. It is a learned skill that parents, and educators can help build, here are 10 ways to teach children problem-solving skills.

1. Don't be a "Helicopter Parent"

Give your child some space. Whatever age your kids are, allow them to make mistakes and teach them how to move forward.

2. Encourage creative play

Remember wooden blocks? How about building a fort from available material? Kids of all ages learn most in the context of play. Make sure their play involves enough challenge and imagination. Eventually, problem solving becomes its own reward.

3. Build the occasional roadblock into their experience

This is the opposite of solving your kids' problems. Make the difficulty reasonable, and make sure a solution is possible. The more informed choices they have to make the better.

4. Provide multiple potential solutions

Whenever it is possible, facilitate decision making. Keep the ball rolling by making sure your kids don't routinely avoid making tough choices because you automatically issue a default solution that's nonnegotiable.

5. Make problem solving a fun part of the culture of your home

Make surmounting difficulties fun. We all run into problems all the time, so why not make surmounting family challenges with a positive attitude simply the way your household does business.

6. Read problem-solving stories together

Read books that inspire children to problem solve. Discuss with your children how the characters in the book solved their problems and how it made them feel solving it by themselves.

7. Try some do-it-yourself projects together

Not handy? No problem, learn together and work together. In fact, the more your child sees you in action, problem solving step by step, the more of a problem solver your child will become.

8. Teach them basic problem-solving steps

- Identify the problem. (For example, "I always miss the school bus.")
- Break the problem into manageable parts, so each task does not seem impossible.
 - My homework is not complete.
 - I didn't eat my breakfast.
 - I haven't brushed my teeth.
 - My lunch isn't packed.
 - My backpack is not ready.

Tackle the parts one at a time until the problem is solved.

9. Allow children to experience failure

If we're unwilling to see our children fail at a task, then we're unwilling for our children to learn.

10. Routinely ask your kids for help

Make sure the children understand that you respect their capacity to solve problems. Practice brainstorming as a family. You'd be surprised at how creative they can be.

Source: <https://bit.ly/39uKELX>

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