

PROBLEM SOLVING AT HOME

EASY TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

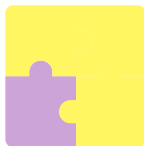


FIX A PROBLEM

When possible (and safe), ask your children to fix a problem, instead of fixing it for them. For instance, if there is a problem between siblings, you can ask them what they think they should do to fix the situation. You can also ask your children to fix a problem around the house, such as a door that always bangs into a wall. This technique will build your children's problem-solving skills. Plus, they could fix something that is genuinely helpful to parents.

WORK ON A PUZZLE

If you have a puzzle, work on it with your children or encourage them to complete it. Try to make sure it is [age appropriate](#)—if it's too difficult, children can get frustrated and be discouraged from participating in such activities in the future. If you don't have access to puzzles, you can check with a local school, library, or neighbor. You can also [make puzzles](#) by cutting or ripping pieces of cardboard and other common, easily-accessible materials.



PLAY GAMES

There are plenty of games like [Tic-tac-toe](#), [hangman](#), and others that require no more than a pen or pencil and something to write on. Games are not only fun, but they also help to entertain children and keep them out of trouble. Additionally, they help your children to be creative and think critically.

QUESTION DURING PLAY

Ask questions while your children play. For example:

- What do you think made the brick tower fall down?
- If we build it again, what can we change so that it won't fall down next time?
- Is there a better way we can do it?
- Did that work? If not, let's try another solution.



QUESTION DURING STORIES

Ask questions to build comprehension. For example:

- Why do you think the bear did that?
- Do you think his friend will be happy? Why?
- What would you do if you were the bear?
- If the bear went through the mountains instead of the river, what do you think would have happened?

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO DO ONE OF THESE TODAY!

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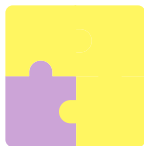


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