

PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS



Problem Solving Skills are how the child plays with toys and the child's ability to find a solution to increasingly more difficult problems.

Problem Solving Skills are a step towards a proper understanding of how to tackle problems and thus to help a child develop coping skills.

3 Months

- Cries when he/she needs something
- Feels comfortable around those who attend to those needs



6 Months

- Acts shy around strangers
- Cries when bored
- Looks at and plays with what interests him/her

9 Months

- Finds the source of what is heard and will find a toy even if it's hidden
- Copies what others do



12 Months

- Drops things just to see you pick it up
- Gets attached to toys for security
- Gets into things to explore

18 Months

- Has tantrums to communicate wants and needs
- Says "no", hits or screams to get his/her own way



2 to 3 Years

- Uses the potty because he/ she does not like being dirty
- Changes behavior with the arrival of a new sibling

3 to 4 Years

- Does simple puzzles
- Is becoming very social
- Wants to help with chores
- May not like going to bed



4 to 5 Years

- Focuses on a task and finishes it
- Learns, thinks, reasons and will solve simple problems
- Laughs at & makes up jokes

What parents can do to help:

- Playing with puzzles, lacing cards, matching objects and playing with play dough
- Playing hide and seek or hide a toy so your child can find it
- Teach your child simple coping techniques (take a deep breath, come back to the activity later, count to 10) when there is a problem that seems unsolvable
- When there is a problem brainstorm with your child the different ways this problem can be solved and then chose which solution is best for the situation
- Play cards, Pictionary or any board game, as they all involve problem solving skills

**Contact your Edmonton Early Years Coalition for more information
www.earlychildhoodedm.ca**