

Pyramid Model

Strategy of the Month

SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH

SOLUTIONS

What are solutions?

Solution cards are pictures illustrating ways to solve a problem with another person. These pictures are visual cues to help children learn to productively solve issues that arise with their peers.

How does your child use this strategy?

Our classrooms and playground have illustrations of solutions posted for the children to see at all times. There are ten basic solutions including using a timer, saying please, getting a teacher, ignoring, waiting and taking turns, playing together, asking nicely, saying "please stop," sharing, and trading. As children learn the basic then many classrooms create and illustrate their own solutions to add to these. Children learn ways to deal with situations such as sharing toys, taking turns, and playing fair by looking at the pictures, choosing a solution, and using the strategy with their friend to work it out.

For example: two children want to play with the same truck, they recognize they have a problem sharing, consult the solution pictures, and decide to try using a timer to work out turn taking.

Teachers facilitate the use of solutions by directly teaching children what each solution means and how to use it, practicing as a group, working individually with children to walk them through the steps to solve the problem, and acknowledging children that use solutions to productively solve problems.

How does it help support their social-emotional development?

Helping children learn to solve their problems positively and productively helps lifelong academic, personal, and social success. When children learn to solve a problem rather than react to it they are less aggressive, more cooperative, and happier in a group setting.

How can you try this at home?

Posting pictures of solutions for your children at home can help them learn to solve problems with their siblings and friends at home. It can help make your home more peaceful and loving by giving your children a useful way to solve problems rather than fighting with each other.

*Ask your child's teacher more about **solving problems using solutions** and how you can use this strategy with your own child!*

For more information visit www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu