THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Quality Teaching and Learning

THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Parent, Family and Community Engagement

TIPS FOR FAMILIES
FOSTERING CHILDREN'S THINKING SKILLS

Solving problems—together

How can you help your child learn to solve problems? There are many opportunities when you talk, play, and do everyday activities together.

Encourage your child to use words, drawings, or objects to show his thinking. Your child will see that ***thinking is a real thing***.

Think of ideas.

Child: *The hopscotch boxes are too big! I can't jump to the next one.*

Adult: *That's too bad! How could you fix that?*

Child: *I could draw a new hopscotch.*

Adult: *Yes, you could. Or you could draw a line down the middle of the boxes to make them smaller...*

Make a plan.

Child: *Okay, you draw the first line. I'll draw the next one.*

Take a step to solve the problem.

Adult: *Sure, watch how I divide the box in half to make it smaller.*

Child: *Ok, let me try... Watch me! I can jump now!*

When children and families think together, children learn to think with—*and solve problems with*—their teachers at school.

For more information, contact us at: **NCQTL@UW.EDU** or **877-731-0764.**

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