PROBLEM SOLVE

Activity overview: This activity provides participants an opportunity to think through how they can support children in problem solving situations. Even for teachers, sometimes it can be challenging to come up with solutions to problems. This exercise will start to stimulate a variety of ideas that can be used for future problem solving situations.

Directions:

1. Read the problem.
2. Next, in a small group or on your own, think of supports you can provide to help the children in the problem situation.
3. Finally, look at the *Tools for Teachers: Visuals of Problem Solving Ideas* handout and choose two pictures, or solutions, that can be used to solve this problem.

Problem: Three children want to be the line leader.

Support I will provide: Move closer. Ask the children what the problem is. Help them put words to the problem. For example, say, "It looks like more than one person wants to be the line leader. I wonder what solutions we can use to help us?" Wait for ideas to start coming from the children. If they don't, offer a solution and see if it is agreeable. Continue with this as it is needed.

Solutions: Flip a coin or be flexible.

Problem: A child's block structure is knocked down by a peer.

Support I will provide:

Solutions:

Problem: The screaming on the playground outside makes a child feel scared to be on the playground.

Support I will provide:

Solutions:

This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0002 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning.

FALL 2012