United Way's DRiVE INITIATIVE
Screen to Succeed

Problem Solving Development

What is Problem Solving Development?

Problem solving is how we understand the way things work. Problem solving is important because it helps kids learn how to think about the world around them and how to ask questions.

Here are ways you can help your child practice problem solving:

- **Show how things work:** Show and explain to your child how things work, such as turning a light switch on and off!

- **Explain how the world works:** Kids learn by doing things. They may have to try a few times before they get it right. Support your child and allow time for him to find solutions on his own in a safe space.

- **Solve puzzles:** Show your child how pieces of a puzzle fit together to make a picture. Then let him try it himself—this helps kids practice thinking!

- **Practice critical thinking:** Help your child solve problems that come up at home or in school by talking about the problem so she understands it. You can also ask her questions to help her think about solutions!

- **Imitate others:** Make silly faces or gestures and see if your baby copies you. This is one way babies and children learn. As kids get older, they can imitate harder body movements like touching their toes.

- **Discover shapes, colors and more:** Talk about shapes and colors that you see in different objects around you, such as fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. These are "concepts" that help kids learn about the world around them.

For more information about how United Way is supporting school readiness through healthy child development, please visit:
unitedwaymassbay.org/DRIVE

There are 5 main areas of development:

1. **Communication**
2. **Fine Motor**
3. **Gross Motor**
4. **Social Emotional**
5. **Problem Solving**

United Way
of Massachusetts Bay
and Merrimack Valley

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