



### PROBLEM SOLVING TEACHER TIP SHEET

Problem solving is an important skill for everyone to possess. Educators can teach problem solving to students by providing numerous opportunities in the classroom and by using teachable moments that promote problem solving. Below are some ideas that teachers can use to teach problem solving.

#### Tips:

- Create a daily or weekly problem solving scenario on the board. Have students work through every step of problem solving. Have students discuss/write/draw their solutions. At the end of the day/week the whole class can discuss ideas.
  - Can allow for teaching perspectives in problem solving as well
- Allow for lots of practice with various potential problems in numerous locations (e.g. school, work, community, with friends, with adults, in general education, at lunch, etc.)
  - Teachers may need to alter a controlled environment in order to introduce problem solving
- Keep data on student's successes and use them as examples when the student encounters a new problem.
- Encourage students to work problems out loud and also model when you are solving problems.

#### General Education areas:

- Science – experiments, scientific method, etc.
- Math – word problems
- History – given a specific setting and information or historical event where individuals worked through the problem solving process
- Literature – read books where characters work through the problem solving process