



Problem-solving

Practice thinking and problems solving skills using these activities.

Using and Drawing Pictures

Encourage your child to use pictures to help solve math problems. Invite them to help you with math tasks by drawing a picture to help visualize the situation. For example, you might say:

- There are five people coming to dinner and we have 12 dinner rolls. How many rolls can each person have?
- There are three cans on each row, and there are four rows. How many cans are there?

Models

Help your child use objects to help solve math problems. As an example, if your child can't remember how many sides a cube has, help them find an item of that shape and count the sides.

Graphs and Charts

Create comparison story problems. For example, you could ask which house in the neighborhood has the most trees, windows, or pets. Your child can make graphs or charts to help figure out the solution.

Guess and Check

Use a guess and check strategy with everyday math problems. Estimation games are a great way to practice math skills and have fun together. When you go to the grocery store together, you can predict how much your groceries will cost, and then compare your guesses with the actual total.

Read

Take a trip to the library or find books online. Look for books about problem-solving that you and your child can read together. Here are some books to consider:

- *Betcha!* by Stuart J. Murphy
- *Lemonade For Sale* by Stuart J. Murphy
- *Ten Apples Up On Top* by Theo LeSieg

You can find these Waterford.org books and practice pages—and many more—in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

Waterford Books

You can find these problem-solving books in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

- *Chloe's Cracker Caper* by Olivia Birdsall
- *Painting by Number* by Olivia Birdsall
- *The Boonville Nine* by Mike Johnson

