

## Problem Solving Strategies

There are various strategies which can be applied to help your child to solve various problems.

1. **ACT IT OUT:** Using concrete materials to act out the problem.
2. **FIND OR USE A PATTERN:** Use information provided to search for a sequence or pattern.
3. **DRAW A PICTURE:** Draw a picture to find an accurate solution.
4. **GUESS & CHECK:** Use your first guess to help or make the next guess more accurate.
5. **WORK BACKWARDS:** When given an end result work backwards in a sequential manner.
6. **MAKE A CHART OR ORGANISED LIST:** Devise a list to record all possibilities.
7. **USE LOGICAL REASONING:** Use all clues and information to help arrive at a solution.
8. **SOLVE A SIMPLER PROBLEM:** Reduce the size of the numbers in a problem.

## Dos and Don'ts



- Make maths as fun as possible!
- Encourage your child to have a go.
- Praise achievements however small.
- Encourage your child to explain how they work things out.
- Remember that asking questions is as important as finding answers.



- Put your child under pressure
- Pass on any negative feelings you may have about maths.
- Worry about mistakes. Children learn from making them.
- Jump in too quickly with the answer.

# Holy Family Primary

## Homework Support Leaflet



# Problem Solving



Dear Parents/Carers

This leaflet is designed to give you some practical advice to assist your child with **problem solving** at home.

Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom, it can happen anywhere. A child or young person's everyday routine offers many opportunities and experiences to practise and apply their numeracy skills in real and meaningful ways.

The strategies mentioned are taught progressively and consistently throughout the school as part of our numeracy programme.

Being competent with all strategies will enable your child to be more agile with the mental calculation of numbers.

Knowledge of numbers, number patterns and calculation strategies is vital to a child's success in many areas of maths, as well as an important life skill in its own right.

We hope that you will find this leaflet helpful and informative.



## Real Life Problem Solving

At Holy Family Primary we give our children opportunities to solve problems based on real life examples or contexts. This makes learning more relevant, meaningful and fun for children.

Children generally work in pairs or small groups when solving problems in class to encourage collaborative learning.

### How Can Parents Nurture their Child's Problem Solving Skills?

Children need to see maths as relevant and important, so share any chances you get to do real life maths. Create fun maths activities through shopping, cooking and playing family games.



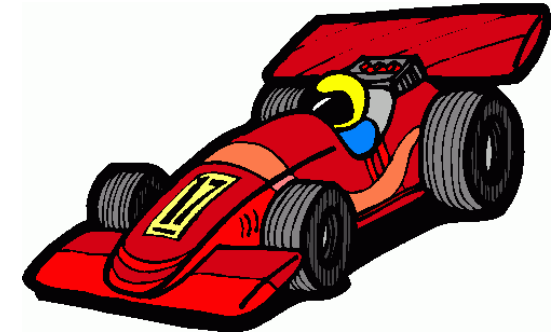
Get your children away from those electronic devices to practise their problem solving skills with some traditional games.

They'll love playing them with you, while you help them with their maths and hopefully have fun as well.



Choose a recipe and get your child to help shop for ingredients in the supermarket. Take the recipe card so that they can purchase the correct weights of ingredients. Cooking or baking a recipe also gives them a chance to use lots of different numeracy skills including number, money, measure, time. If having a takeaway get them to calculate the amount of money needed and check any change given.

## Problem Solving Process



At Holy Family we teach the children a problem solving process. We call this **RACE CAR**. This useful acronym helps the children to remember the different stages to solving a problem.

**R**ead the question

**A**sk yourself – what is wanted?

**C**hoose a method

**E**xperiment

**C**heck your answer

**A**nsWER the question

**R**eport back

