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**PROBLEM SOLVING**

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**A GUIDE FOR PARENTS**



In partnership with Glasgow City Council

![MCj03342680000[1]]()**PROBLEM SOLVING**



We practice a problem-solving approach in all areas of the Nursery throughout the year. Staff use open-ended questioning to encourage the children to use their imagination, think creatively and develop their initiative. The process of trying to find a solution with adults and peers is more important than the end product.

Parents and staff can teach children how to use their

![MCj04344110000[1]]()imagination and think creatively as well as develop initiative by:-

* Asking open-ended questions –

 “ What will happen if……………?”

 “ Can you find a way……………..?”

 “ What do you think………….....?” (remind

 children of previous experiences.)

* Challenging your child by saying –

 “I don’t think I can make this work. Can you try?”. Encourage your child to talk about their discoveries and solutions.

* Simplify problems by breaking them into steps. Help your child to plan.

Children need time to think about what they are doing, to find what works through trial and error (very time consuming, but very valuable).

Give your child time and encouragement to reflect on his/her experiences to develop his/her learning.

Value your child’s effort even if the outcome is less than

perfect. The process of trying to find a solution and having the opportunity to share this process with an interested adult is more important than the solution.

It is important to model problem solving as this will help

develop your child’s understanding of the approach. By thinking aloud and talking about why you are trying something and showing a positive attitude if it doesn’t work, you are showing your child that problems can be solved.

Tamara Marashi

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