

Your Child & School: Problem Solving Model

When there's a problem...

- Determine if it could cause discomfort or damage
- If it's *discomfort* (child uncomfortable, but no slowdown in learning)...
problem solve with your child
- If it's *damage* (learning is suffering)...
use the Problem Solving Model with the school

Problem Solving Model

First Steps

- Determine early there is a problem to solve.
- Decide what action(s) would solve it.
- Identify the person with the power to solve it.
- Identify what constraints the system may have that could prevent solving it.
- Be ready to work with the system to overcome those constraints.

Steps with Your Child

- Have your child decide what part he/she will play in solving the problem.
- Together decide what part you will play in solving the problem.
- Together develop a proposed plan to solve the problem.

Steps with the School

- Make an appointment.
- Establish rapport. Focus on what the child needs to be successful.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to constraints in the system without giving up on the need to solve your child's problem.
- Develop a plan with the system to solve your child's problem.

Evaluate

- Set a timeline within which the problem ought to be resolved.
- Let the educator know when you will return to evaluate the situation.
- Write a thank-you note including documentation of the solution.
- If the solution fails, go through the process again.

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