

# PROBLEM SOLVING





Entrepreneurs spend a lot of time thinking about and coming up with creative solutions to problems. We call this **PROBLEM SOLVING**.

**You problem solve when you:**

- **Figure out how to fix a broken toy.**
- **Sound out a new word while you're reading.**
- **Think up a new product that will help people.**

How else do you problem solve at home, at school, or in your business project?

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### **»»» CAREGIVER:**

You have to let go a little in order to help your child develop problem-solving skills. Encourage your kids to find solutions to challenges they may have. You might offer guidance but allow your child to try, make mistakes, fail, and find success on their own. Learning these skills will help your child discover how to problem solve. The following activities encourage your child to think about creative ways to solve problems.

## ACTIVITY:

# SUPERHEROES

This activity is one you can do with a group! To start, choose a silly problem, like you can't get the toothpaste out of the tube. Then, have each person choose a household object like a shoe or a toothpick.

The first person acts out the scene with the problem ("Oh no! I can't get the toothpaste out because my hands are oily from building a car engine!") and calls a superhero to solve it. The superhero's strength should have to do with the object they chose (Super Shoe Boy and Toothpick Girl to the rescue!).

How could your superheroes solve the problem? (Super Shoe Boy stomps on the tube to get the toothpaste out; Toothpick Girl pokes a hole in the tube to get it out).

**Draw a picture of your group as problem-solving superheroes in this box. Write down how each superhero tried to solve the problem in your game.**



**Tip:** If you can't get a whole group involved, try writing a funny script about silly superheroes solving the problem, instead.

### »» CAREGIVER:

When possible, give your child choices. Ask, "Do you want to go to the park or the pool?" or "Should we have salad or pasta for dinner?" Ask them to explain their choices. Problem-solving skills develop as people learn that their choices make a difference.

# EGG DROP CHALLENGE

Eggs are fragile and crack when dropped. What if you could build a device that would cushion an egg so that it stayed in one piece after a fall?

Talk to your caregiver about where you can do this challenge. You'll need a safe place to drop an egg where it won't hit anyone or hurt anything.

Figure out where this can happen and then get thinking about how to keep an egg from breaking.

- **Design the egg drop device.**



- **Decide what materials you need to build it and gather them.**
- **Build your egg drop device.**
- **Test your device.**
- **If it worked, try dropping it from a taller height. What changes will you need to make? If it didn't work, how can you redesign so that it does?**


What were your results? What kind of problem-solving did you have to do for the second drop?

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"A problem is a  
chance for you to  
do your best"

– Duke Ellington

**REFLECTION:** Entrepreneurs use problem-solving skills to come up with ideas for things people want and need. What are some problems you have at home or school that need to be solved? **Write or draw your ideas!**



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**CONCLUSION:**

These activities helped you see that there are many ways to solve problems. That's why entrepreneurs are so important – they solve all kinds of kinds of problems in creative ways—that's just what they do!



venturelab

I AM A  
**PROBLEM SOLVER**

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⤴ Your Name Here: ⤵

**has successfully practiced this  
entrepreneurial mindset!**

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Founder of VentureLab

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Date