

Persistence & problem solving

Families and teachers: the early childhood and primary school curricula use different strategies to help children to be persistent problem solvers.

You can encourage young children to be persistent and solve problems while playing, or while watching educational shows like *Sesame Street* together.



Watch together

While you're watching *Sesame Street* or other educational content together highlight how characters like those in *Magical Car Races* or *The Furchester Hotel* solve problems.

Problem solve

- If you can, pause while watching to ask children to brainstorm what they might do to solve the problem. After, talk together about the solutions they found and how the characters persisted.
- Children can apply this as they help solve simple school and home challenges. They can help you to design the learning environment or a room at home, or make suggestions for ways to take turns.
- Play games with infants and toddlers like hide and seek, and find the toy. Or, give them blocks to stack, or fit into containers.



Play and learn together

Obstacle course

- Create simple obstacle courses for gross motor play. Children can jump over a box, step into a circle or hula hoop and crawl through a tunnel made from a box open at the top and bottom.
- Give children different materials like boxes, blocks and toy cars so they can make their own obstacle courses or mazes together, which is a great link to those learning about transportation.

Coping with frustration

- Help children to develop their coping strategies by brainstorming things they can do when they're feeling frustrated, and encouraging things they can say to themselves like, "It's hard sometimes but I can do it if I keep trying."



Talk together

Help children to identify how they're feeling and think of ways to encourage themselves:

- I see that you're getting frustrated. It's ok to feel frustrated. What could you do when you're feeling frustrated?
- What can you tell yourself to help you keep trying?
- What could you tell a friend to encourage and help them to keep trying?



Links to Sesame Street content

Here are some related songs on YouTube you can sing together:

- ✓ [“Sesame Street: Hailee Steinfeld Sings I Wonder, What if, Let's Try!”](#)
- ✓ [“Sesame Street: Maren Morris sings Oops! Whoops! Wait, Ah ha! Song”](#)
- ✓ [“Sesame Street: Janelle Monae - Power of Yet”](#)
- ✓ [“Sesame Street: Bruno Mars: Don't Give Up”](#)

Visit [Sesame Workshop](#)

for many more related activities, printables, and video-based suggestions like:

- ✓ [“Positive Problem Solving”](#)
- ✓ [“Resilience”](#)
- ✓ [“Calming Strategies”](#)

to play online games like:

- ✓ [“Elmo's Brain Games”](#)



Links to find out more together

Local resources

- ✓ [The Ministry of Education and Youth's Game-Based & Interactive Learning Activities for Early Years](#)
- ✓ [Curricular resources](#) like the Resource Book and curriculum guides from the Early Childhood Commission
- ✓ Digital library Book Fusion has free books <https://www.bookfusion.com/libraries/MOEYI>
- ✓ The children's books [I Can Do My Part](#) (<https://bit.ly/icandomypart>) and [I Have Feelings](#) (<https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings>)
- ✓ [Reach Up and Learn Parent Manual: Activities for Children Up to Age 3 Years](#)

Other resources

- ✓ “80 Songs That Inspire a Growth Mindset” <https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/motivational-songs-growth-mindset-kids>
- ✓ [Global Digital Library](#) has 6,000+ free books in over 83 languages (<https://digitallibrary.io/>)
- ✓ [Room to Read's](#) free digital library (<https://literacycloud.org/>)