# Problem Solving Steps

**1** STOP **?**
Stop and think, 'what is my problem'?

**2**
Think of a solution.

**3**
What would happen? Is it safe? Is it fair? How would everyone feel?

**4** GO
Give it a try!

## Teaching the Problem Solving Steps

When faced with conflict it is common for young children to experience difficulty generating rational solutions. They could act out in anger or express frustration for lack of a more appropriate way to handle a problem. Children benefit from being intentionally taught problem solving steps to be able to think of multiple alternative solutions. Educators can implement solutions through consistent and intentional teaching strategies. These strategies are supported by the implementation of visuals to assist children in identifying the problem solving steps process and generating solutions.

## Adults can introduce these steps by:

- Role play during Circle Time.
- Using puppets.
- Keeping visuals of problem solving steps posted around the room.
- Discussing the problem solving steps that arise during shared stories.
- Providing access to solution kits around the room or accessible solutions carried by the educator.
- Reviewing the steps and generating solutions to common classroom problems through mind mapping with children.
- Provide positive descriptive feedback when a child uses the problem solving steps, identifies a solution and after they have tried the solution.
- During naturally occurring opportunities through the day.

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**3** What would happen? Is it safe? Is it fair? How would everyone feel?

**4** Give it a try!