Task notes | It's a problem

Notes for parents. Activity next page.

The purpose of this task is to help your child to:

- use materials, drawings and numbers to work out a problem
- show different ways of solving a problem
- talk about how they solve a problem and why they did it that way they
- enjoy working out maths problems

You may like to print the task sheet on the next page.

Here's what to do:

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• Have paper, a pencil or crayons/felt pens, some counting materials (for example, dried beans, buttons, bottle tops, counters) ready.



- Choose one problem that appeals to you and read it with your child. You may like to cut it out.
- Have your child explain to you what the problem is asking them to do it and how they might go about working it out.
- Notice that the problems are open-ended: that is there is no single right answer. Give your child the time and encouragement to solve each problem in as many ways as they can. There is no hurry to complete them.
- Listen carefully as your child explains their solution/s and tell them what you like about what they have done.
- Try another problem when you're both ready.



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Activity | Problems to solve

Josiah has a piece of string that measures 26 centimetres. He's finds something at home that the string fits round *exactly*. Use your own string to find out what this could be.

Draw pictures of what you find.

Angus cuts out a shape. He folds it in half. It is symmetrical. Draw what Angus's shape might look like.

When children in Viv's class got into groups, no one was left out. What might the size of the groups be if there are 18 people in Viv's class?

What if there are 20 children? 24 children? 30 children?

Write or draw your ideas for each.

Manu's mum got a big bag of balloons for his party. Manu is putting some into little bags for his friends. He puts 5 in each bag. There are three left over. How many balloons could Manu's mum have bought?

Show how you know.

Can you make more than twenty five 3-digit numbers (from 100 to 1000) using any of the digits 1, 0, 2, 5, 3 and 6 only once in each number?

Write these on a piece of paper: read, watch TV, cook, be with friends, play sport, go shopping, play a game. Ask each person in your family to tick the two things they most like to do in their spare time.

Make a graph and compare results.





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