

# Parents as Partners

# MATH AT HOME



## CHAPTER 8

# Solving problems

Children sometimes think if they don't know the answer right away, they can't do math.

We need to help them understand that everyone can excel at math.

There are steps that we go through as we solve a problem. Helping your child think about this process will support him/her in seeing himself/herself as a capable mathematician.

## Understanding the problem

Children are encouraged to:

- ◆ Read the problem and then restate the problem in their own words.
- ◆ Create a model or make a picture in their head to show the problem.
- ◆ Ask themselves the following questions:
  - What do I know?
  - What do I have to find out?
  - What information will I use?
  - How can I get started?



## Make a plan

Your child may think there is one way to solve this problem. Help him/her to see that he/she can use any strategy that makes sense to solve the problem.

## Carry out your plan

Have your child go ahead and work on the problem. You may find that you have to reread the question or change your plan as you go. That's okay. It's all part of the problem solving process.

## Does your answer make sense?

- ◆ Have your child check to make sure he/she answered everything that was asked.
- ◆ Children are encouraged to ask themselves if their answer makes sense.
- ◆ Think about whether there might be an easier, or more efficient way to solve the problem.

**Problem solving demands perseverance, reasoning, analyzing, representing and questioning.**

These are great thinking skills for your child to develop. They will be valuable in all areas.