My Action Plan – Sample 2
Related to Problem Solving
in my Mathematics Program

What is my goal?

To give my students the confidence to use their own strategies to solve problems

Why is this goal important to me and to my students?

In the past, I’ve tended to show my students how to solve problems. As a result, they often rely on me to show them how to tackle a problem. I want them to think for themselves about appropriate ways to solve a problem, and to use strategies that make sense to them.

What, specifically, will I focus on?

Posing problems that my students will be interested in solving
Resisting the impulse to show them how to solve problems
Encouraging students to share their problem-solving strategies with each other

How will I know if I am making progress towards my goal?

Students will ask me less often for help in deciding how to solve problems.
Students will use a variety of strategies when problem solving.
Students will share their strategies with each other, and be able to explain how and why they use them.
My Action Plan – Sample 2 (continued)

What specific actions can I take now (short-term goals)?

Plan a problem-solving lesson to introduce the unit on fractions next week.

Plan learning activities for the unit that will involve small-group work.

Chat with Janice about problem solving in her math program.

Resist the temptation to show students how to solve problems.

What actions can I take over a period of time (long-term goals)?

Look through resources for problems that will interest my students and that can be solved using a variety of strategies.

Continue to plan learning activities that focus on problem solving.

Conduct interviews with five students to assess their interest and confidence in solving problems. Conduct another interview in three months' time to determine if attitudes toward problem solving have changed.

What resources (human, print, electronic) can support me?

Janice – I think she offers a terrific math program with a problem-solving approach.

Lessons from the Ministry’s Number Sense and Numeration guide

Check out the professional learning section in the school library.