

## Skills Challenge – Week 1 Problem Solving

Problem solving is an important skill for the future as it can help children and young people to follow instructions to complete tasks, such as following a recipe or reading a map for directions. Developing this skill helps us to be able to identify when we need help and find the right person to ask. Further development would be finding the solution ourselves and identifying the right method, whether using books, asking people or internet research. You might learn that there is more than one solution and you can choose the best one by thinking about the pros and cons. You can find out more about problem solving skills at [www.skillsbuilder.org](http://www.skillsbuilder.org)

Here are some activities for you to take part in to help develop your problem solving skills. Once completed, send evidence to us at [childrensuniversity@wakefield.ac.uk](mailto:childrensuniversity@wakefield.ac.uk) and we will send you a stamp code for 1 Learning Hour per activity.

**Activity 1** – Build a tower as high as you can and sit a small toy on top. What will you use to make your tower? It must be stable enough to hold a small toy. What shape/structure will your tower be? Have a look at some famous towers and see how they are built. If your tower starts to wobble, use your problem solving skills to find a solution. Can you challenge a family member to make a tower out of only a certain material, e.g. newspaper?

**Activity 2** – Transport a toy/item from one side of the room to the other. You must do this without the toy touching the floor. How many different ways can you do this? You could build bridges or tunnels if your item has wheels or is a ball. Perhaps the item could swing across the room. Use your problem solving skills to test ideas and find a solution. Can you move yourself across the room without touching the floor? How many different interesting ways can you do this? Think about how you can move to jump (safely), slide or use other items in the house to help you.

**Activity 3** – Create a treasure hunt using clues. Where will you hide the treasure and what will it be? Don't forget to make a map! Maybe you could hide clues around the house and garden as well as making a map. There's lots of example treasure trails on the internet but be creative and add your own ideas in too!

Have fun and don't forget to send us photos or videos to claim your stamp code