

Math Practice #1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them

I work hard and keep trying, even when something goes wrong. I do what I can to be successful. I don't wait for someone else to give me the answer, and I don't give up!



HOW TO SUPPORT

"Tell me what you know about the problem and exactly what you're unsure about."

"What have you tried?"

"What else could you try?"

"What do your classmates think about the problem?"

"What other problems have you solved that are similar to this one?"

"What strategies or formulas might be helpful here?"

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Life is filled with exciting challenges and difficult problems, most of which don't come with step-by-step instructions for success.

Being a good problem-solver in life means:

- *working on a problem, even when it seems overwhelming*
- *trying something, even when you're not sure it will work*
- *learning from your mistakes and trying something else*
- *not giving up until you accomplish your goal*

WHAT TO EXPECT IN MATH CLASS

Challenging problems without step-by-step instructions for solving.

Chances to fail (a lot), and opportunities to learn (a lot) from those failures.

A teacher who is a coach and a cheerleader - providing guidance, support, and encouragement through the problem-solving struggle.

WHAT TO DO IN MATH CLASS

- *Ask good quality questions to understand and investigate the problem*
- *Do NOT just say, "I don't get it"*
- *Do NOT wait for someone else to do the work*
- *Brainstorm different ways to solve the problem*
- *Try something, even when it might not work*
- *Brainstorm new ways to solve the problem when the first method doesn't work*
- *Do NOT give up or get too frustrated*