Problem Solving

About the activity

Problem solving sessions test your pupils' initiative and ingenuity. Children work in small teams to solve puzzles and complete set tasks - it's a great way for your pupils to get to know each other really well. By the time they finish they'll have an appreciation and understanding each individual's ability (including their own!) when it comes to planning, communicating and making decisions – skills which are all key to achieving the objectives of each task.

Activity aims

The aim of this activity is to:
- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Increase confidence, self-awareness and general social skills.
- Develop communication, problem solving, leadership and teamwork skills.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Developed the skills to work in small groups communicating effectively.
- Collaborated with others in a group to solve a problem or make a decision choosing strategies appropriate to the task.
- Effectively worked in small teams supporting their peers throughout the activity and recognised their achievements.
- Contributed to performance review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Progression opportunities

Some participants may also:
- Be able to devise and put into practice a range of solutions to a problem.
- Take a leading role when working with others.
- Identify and respond to weaknesses in their group by planning improvements.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:
- Interpersonal communication
- Teamwork
- Decision making skills

Associated vocabulary

Words relevant to safety	e.g. boundaries, rules, risk assessment, safety area.
Words relevant to equipment	e.g. obstacles, puzzles, riddle.
Words relevant to the activity	e.g. co-ordination, planning, imagination, problem solving, solution.
Words relevant to teamwork	e.g. achievement, communication, encouragement, listening, participation, review, support.