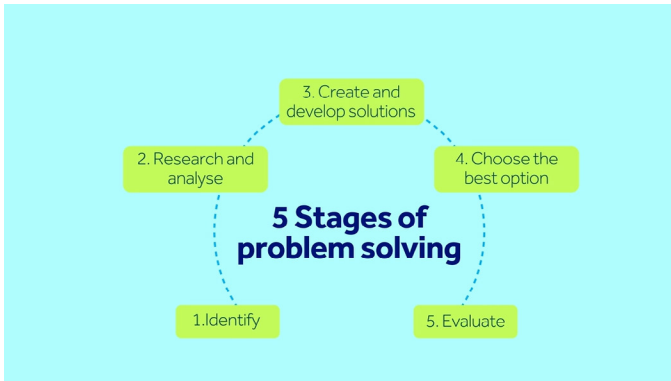# 5 stages of problem solving

Animation transcript

Problems are a part of everyday life. Some are little, but some can be big. Breaking them down and changing the way we think about them can help us become top problem solvers.

Start by asking yourself, what's the problem? Make sure you identify what lies at the heart of the issue. Talking to a friend, teacher, or a trusted adult can help.

Things can often look scary as a whole. Break it down into manageable chunks. It may help to research to build more of an understanding. Analyse the patterns. Are there things that keep happening?

When you think you know what's wrong, use your imagination to make sense of the problem and develop some potential solutions. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each solution. You might want to chat the different options through with someone else too.

Choose the best option for you. You won't know if it works until you test it out.

Evaluate your solutions. What have you learned? What would you do differently? Problems may evolve, so you may need to tweak some of your solutions or keep developing them in small ways.

So, remember: when you are next faced with a problem, use these steps to think like a top problem solver.