

Creative Problem Solving & Decision Making

Definition:

Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making is the demonstration of behaviours that enable one to identify and solve problems by understanding the situation, seeking additional information, developing and weighing alternatives, and choosing the most appropriate course of action given the circumstances. Problems can be solved by breaking the issue into smaller pieces or by identifying patterns or connections between situations that are not obviously related. It involves the willingness to and demonstration of behaviours associated with taking a creative approach to problems or issues. It includes “thinking outside of the box” to go beyond the conventional, and to explore creative uses of resources.

Introduction to Activity:

Have you ever encountered a problem that seemed to have no solution? Our biggest challenges are resolved through a process of brainstorming creative ideas, trying new things, and using the resources around us. As a team, work together with the materials provided to come up with a solution to the problem.

The Challenge: The Great Egg Drop

Task: Using the materials provided devise a way for your egg to fall safely from the roof of Community Living London, to the ground below.

Materials: 1 large size, chicken egg, 15 straws, 1 roll masking tape, 2 rubber bands, 4 paper clips, 60 cm piece of string, 1 sandwich bag

The Rules:

1. you may not hard boil your egg
2. you can only use the material provided

All submissions will be brought to 190 Adelaide St. on _____ for the Great Egg Drop! Come out to see which team's egg survives the fall! Good Luck!

Helpful Hints

- Identify your problem-solving approach.
- Think about your approach to problem solving.
- “Brainstorm” potential solutions to a problem before you draw conclusions or make a decision.
- When you are getting stuck with a problem, see if you can find a different way of looking at it: seek to find out what the real issue is, which may not be the obvious one.
- Question ‘what, where, when, who, why, how’ to understand the problem more deeply, and reformulate it in light of your new insights.
- Work with your team to challenge these assumptions and boundaries

**Take a moment to think about the “big picture”. Do any additional solutions come to mind within this larger context?*

**Talking through a problem or situation is a good technique to stimulating thought and developing insight. Getting another viewpoint adds more ideas and energy*

Closing:

- We hope you enjoyed this exercise in Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making! We look forward to seeing how your creation fares in the Great Egg Drop!
- Are there challenges where you work that you would like to put forward? Send them to the Core Competency Team, CoreCompetencyTeam@ccl.on.ca and we may use your examples (without identifying information) to get everyone using their creative problem solving and decision making skills to offer suggestions.