# Problem Solving Visual

Students with Language Disorder can find decision making and problem solving complex and challenging. Decision making and problem solving situations range in complexity. Decision making situations include self- care and independence problems, such as what to eat for breakfast or what to do if you need help in class, as well as social problems, such as what to do if your friend is playing with someone else. Some students may need specific teaching and scaffolding on how to make appropriate decisions and problem solve.

Problem Solving Steps

One approach to supporting problem solving skills is to teach a systematic process for making a decision or solving a problem. Generally, the steps require for problem solving include:

Describe the problem: What is the problem that needs to be solved or the decision that needs to be made?

Explore solutions: Think of multiple ideas, choices and different solutions.

Analyse each of the solutions: Consider the advantages and disadvantages of each choice.

Identify the final solution: Choose a solution. This may include combining different solutions, creating a new solution or rating the choices from best to least favourable. Develop a plan for implementing this solution.

The use of visuals and templates can be beneficial to teach and support students to approach and solve difficult situations, particularly for young people with language difficulties. In this resource you will find a sample graphic organiser that may be helpful for guiding students through a systematic problem solving process.

1. Describe the problem

2. Think of options

1

2

3
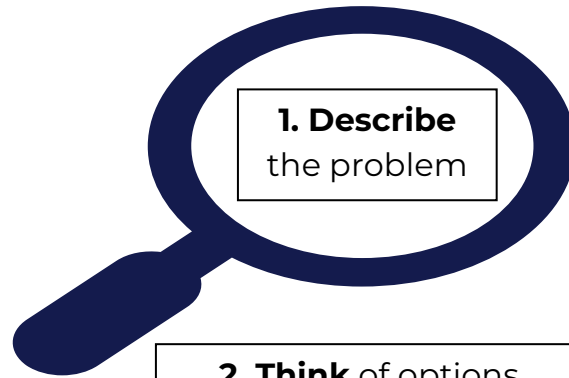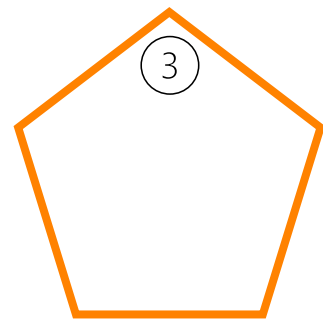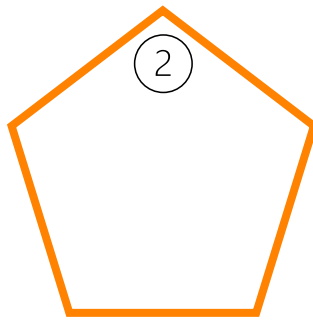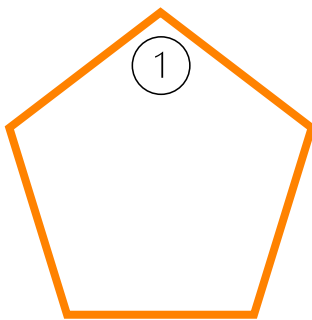
3. Work out advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

Advantages

Advantages

Disadvantages

Disadvantages

Disadvantages

4. Choose and plan the final solution