

Problem-Solving with Tasks

This book features a girl’s persistence as she tries to make her favorite food, Bao. It lends itself to showing how changing your strategy to find a new way can help you complete a task independently.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK



Children will:

- ◆ Think of how to solve problems or complete tasks by trying different strategies

Teachers will:

- ◆ Acknowledge the effort shown in the story

TEACHING TIP

It may feel frustrating to watch a child struggle with a task or take a long time to figure something out, but allowing children the opportunity to build their own skills, confidence, and ideas can support creative problem-solving. Instead of solving a child’s problems for them, it’s important to give them the chance to take risks, experiment, and learn from their own choices. Being there to observe and encourage the child as they work through a problem, and only stepping in when really necessary, supports the independence that comes along with becoming a problem-solver.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Sometimes it can take a lot of tries to do something. We can keep trying in new ways to solve problems! Today we’re going to read a story called *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao*. This story is about a girl who keeps trying to make her favorite food, called bao, even when it doesn’t quite work. Let’s see how she solves her problem all on her own!”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to acknowledge Amy’s effort.
- ◆ Narrate Amy’s independence and the different ideas she thinks of.

Acknowledge Effort

Read: “Sometimes they fall apart before they reach her mouth”

Acknowledge: “Amy can do so many things on her own, but she has trouble making bao that is the right size. She keeps trying lots of ways to get it right!”

Read: “‘Pinch, pinch pinch’ says Amy’s grandma”

Narrate: “Amy looks frustrated about solving the problem because her family’s solutions are not working for her.”

Acknowledge: “Amy really wants to make the perfect bao all on her own, but she might need to think of a new way to do it.”

Read: “It tastes just as good”

Acknowledge: “Amy tried her own, new idea to cut the dough up, and she finally could make the perfect bao! But even the bao that don’t look quite right tasted good. Amy kept trying and made some delicious food.”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “It can feel frustrating to not be able to do something at first, but we can keep trying out new ideas, just like Amy, to find a solution that works. And sometimes, even the not-perfect things we do along the way can work out!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Encourage independence throughout the daily routine by encouraging children to try out their own ideas and offering just enough support. Allow children to complete daily tasks on their own, like getting ready for rest, and to try things out in their own way, even if it takes longer.