

Ollie the Owl Learns to Brainstorm

Solutions

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of brainstorming multiple ideas to solve problems and understand that trying different solutions can help them find the best one.

Materials Needed:



- The story “*Ollie the Owl Learns to Solve Problems*”
- The song “*Ollie the Owl’s Brainstorming Solutions*”
- Ollie’s Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1- Puppet Role-play
- Activity 2- Brainstorming Session
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Begin with a brief discussion (topic of lesson).

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - "Good morning, everyone! Let’s all sit in a circle together. Today, we’re going to talk about something very important—solving problems! Can anyone tell me what a problem is?"
 - (Wait for the children to share their thoughts.)
- **Discussion Starter**
 - "Those are great ideas! A problem is when something is tricky or hard, and we need to figure out how to fix it. Sometimes, it can feel a little frustrating when we don’t know what to do, right? But guess what? There’s a way to make solving problems easier! It’s called brainstorming. Brainstorming means thinking of lots of different ideas to solve a problem, and then choosing the best one. Today, we’re going to learn how Ollie the Owl used brainstorming to solve his problems."

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story *Ollie the Owl Learns to Solve Problems* aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions during key parts of the story

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. "Now, I'm going to read you a story called 'Ollie the Owl Learns to Solve Problems.' In this story, Ollie has a problem, and he needs to think of lots of ideas to solve it. Let's listen closely to see how Ollie figures out what to do."
 - b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)
- **Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:**
 - **While reading**, pause during key moments.
 - **Ask Questions:**
 - What happened to Ollie's toy at the beginning of the story?
 - Why couldn't Ollie get the toy down from the tree by himself?
 - What advice did Grandma give Ollie about solving problems?
 - What was the first idea Ollie tried to get the toy?
 - Did the stick help Ollie get the toy down?
 - Who did Ollie ask for help after using the stick?
 - Why couldn't Benny the Bear reach the toy?
 - Who did Ollie think of next, and what did she try?
 - What idea finally worked to get the toy down?

Ollie the Owl Learns to Solve Problems

In a forest green and wide,
Lived Ollie the Owl, with eyes so bright.
He loved to play and hoot at night,
But solving problems gave him a fright.

One sunny day, with skies so blue,
Ollie had a puzzle he couldn't undo.
His toy was stuck in a tall, tall tree,
He didn't know how to set it free.

He flapped his wings and gave a shout,
But the toy just wouldn't come out.
He felt frustrated, didn't know what to do,
Then remembered what Grandma said was true.

"Many ideas, that's the key,
To solve a problem, wait and see.
Think of choices, one by one,
Then pick the best, and it will be done."

Ollie took a deep, deep breath,
And thought of ways to fix the mess.
"I could climb, but the tree's too tall,
I might slip and take a fall."

"Maybe I could use a stick,
To poke it down, that might do the trick."
He tried the stick, it didn't reach,
The toy stayed stuck, like a sandy beach.

Then Ollie thought of Benny the Bear,
"His arms are long, he can reach up there."
Benny came and gave it a try,
But the toy was still too high.

Ollie didn't give up, he thought some more,
Remembering ideas could open the door.
"Harriet the Hare can hop so high,
Maybe she can reach the sky."

Harriet hopped, but it was no good,
The toy stayed stuck, as it would.
Ollie felt a little stuck too.
But knew there were more ideas to do.

Remembered Betty the Beaver,
Who built with sticks, always a believer.
"Betty, can you build a ladder so high,
To help me reach up to the sky?"

Betty built a ladder, tall and neat,
Ollie climbed up, feeling the feat.
He reached the toy and brought it down,
A big wide smile, replacing his frown.

Ollie learned that very day,
That solving problems works this way.
With many ideas and trying them all,
He found the best, and stood tall.

He thanked his friends, so kind and true,
For helping him with what to do.
They all learned that thinking wide,
Brought solutions from every side.

So remember Ollie, wise and bright,
Who learned to solve with all his might.
Think of choices, big and small,
And you'll find the best one of all.

Ollie the Owl, with heart so keen,
Found the way through every scene.
With many ideas, and friends so dear,
He solved problems without fear.

3. Post-Chapter Teacher Script

“Ollie’s story showed us that when we have a problem, the best thing we can do is stop, take a deep breath, and think of different ideas to try. Sometimes the first idea doesn’t work—and that’s okay! By thinking carefully, trying again, and asking for help, we can find smart solutions, just like Ollie did. Solving problems takes patience, creativity, and teamwork.”

4. Post-Chapter Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the chapter and connect it to their own experiences:

- What did Ollie learn about solving problems?
- Why is it a good idea to try more than one solution?
- How did Ollie’s friends help him solve the problem?
- Have you ever had a problem that was hard to solve? What did you do?
- Why is it important not to give up when something doesn’t work right away?
- What do you do when your first idea doesn’t work?
- Why do you think Ollie felt proud at the end of the story?
- How can asking for help be part of solving a problem?
- What would have happened if Ollie had given up after the stick didn’t work?
- What can you remember from this story the next time you have a tricky problem?

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the *Ollie the Owl's Brainstorming Solutions* song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

"Now that we've learned how Ollie solved his problem, let's sing a fun song about problem-solving and brainstorming. This song will help us remember that when we think of lots of different ideas, we can find the best way to solve a problem."

"Ollie the Owl's Brainstorming Solutions"

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the Owl in the tree top
Thinking hard never stops
Got a problem in his sight
Needs a plan, needs it right

Point up
Point to head
Circle eyes with hands

[Verse 2]

Head full of ideas, bright
Day and night, wings take flight
Trying this and trying that
Big ideas - imagine that!

Point to head
Flap hands like wings
hold left hand out, then right hand
Circle head with hands

[Chorus]

Ollie Ollie, think it through
Many choices one will do
Spread your wings and let it fly
Find the best way, give a try

Wag finger
Spread hands out, hold 1 finger up
Flap hands
Pump fist

[Verse 3]

Puzzle pieces all around
In each choice, a clue is found
Ollie's mind a treasure chest
Hunting down the very best

Point upward
Point to head

[Verse 4]

Flipping pages in his book
Every angle takes a look
Feathers ruffled
Nothing clear
Ollie's plan is getting near

Flap hands
Shake head "no"

[Bridge]

Ideas flowing like a stream
In the night, his mind does gleam
Open wide that owl's view
Every thought comes to you

Point to head

Circle eye with hands
Point to head

Song Wrap-up

"Great job, everyone! Remember, just like Ollie, we can solve problems by thinking of lots of different ideas."

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice coming up with many ideas to solve a problem

Please choose from the following 2 activities:



Activity 1: Puppet Role-play (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

Today, we're going to have some fun with our puppets. Just like Ollie the Owl and his friends solved problems in the story, we're going to use our puppets to act out different problems and think of lots of ideas to solve them. Are you ready to help Ollie and his friends solve some tricky problems?"

(Wait for the children to get excited and settle down with anticipation.)

"Great! Let's all gather around, and I'll show you how we're going to play with the puppets."

Activity Instructions

1. Introduce the Puppets:

"Here are our friends—Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, Harriet the Hare, and Betty the Beaver. Each of them is going to help us solve a problem today. Who would like to help me with the puppets?"

(Choose a few children to handle the puppets, making sure everyone gets a turn. If you have more children than puppets, let them take turns throughout the activity.)

2. Present the First Problem:

"Let's start with Ollie the Owl. Oh no! Ollie's toy is stuck in the tree again! What do you think Ollie should do to get his toy down? Let's think of some ideas together."

(Encourage the children to suggest ideas, using the puppet to act out each suggestion. For example, if a child suggests using a stick, have Ollie pretend to reach up with a stick.)

"That's a great idea! Ollie can try to reach the toy with a stick. Let's see what happens."

Act out the scenario with the puppet. If the idea doesn't "work," gently explain why it might not be the best solution and encourage more ideas.)

"Oh, the stick wasn't long enough. What else could Ollie try?"

(Continue brainstorming and acting out ideas until you find one that "works," such as asking Benny the Bear to help reach the toy.)

3. Switch to Another Puppet:

"Great job, everyone! You helped Ollie get his toy down by thinking of lots of different ideas. Now, let's see if we can help another friend. Who wants to use the Benny the Bear puppet?"

(Choose a child to take the Benny puppet. Present a new problem for Benny to solve.)

"Benny the Bear has a problem—his favorite ball rolled under the couch, and he can't reach it! What should Benny do? Let's think of some ideas together."

(Encourage the children to suggest different ideas, such as using a broom to push the ball out, asking for help, or moving the couch. Act out each suggestion with the puppet.)

"Those are all great ideas! Let's see which one works best."

(Act out each idea, discussing why some might work better than others.)

4. Continue with More Scenarios:

"Now, let's help Harriet the Hare! Harriet is trying to bake a pie, but she's missing some ingredients. What can she do to solve this problem?"

(Again, encourage brainstorming and act out each idea. If a child suggests asking a friend for ingredients, use the puppet to "ask" another puppet for help.)

"Wonderful! Harriet can ask Betty the Beaver for some flour. Let's see if that helps."

(Act out the scenario, showing how teamwork and brainstorming can solve the problem.)

5. Final Scenario:

"Let's do one more! Betty the Beaver is building a dam, but the water is too strong and keeps washing away her sticks. What should Betty do to solve this problem?"

(Guide the children in coming up with different solutions, such as using bigger sticks, building the dam in a different spot, or asking friends for help. Act out the solutions with the puppets.)

"Great job, everyone! You helped Betty figure out how to build a stronger dam. By thinking of lots of different ideas, you found the best solution."

Wrap-Up:

"That was so much fun! You all did an amazing job helping Ollie and his friends solve their problems. What did we learn today about solving problems?"

(Allow the children to share their thoughts. Reinforce the key lesson about the importance of brainstorming and trying different ideas.)

"Yes, we learned that when we have a problem, it's important to think of lots of different ideas. Sometimes the first idea doesn't work, but that's okay! We can try another idea and see if that one works better."

"Who remembers what Ollie did when his first idea didn't work? (Pause for responses.) That's right—he kept thinking and trying new ideas until he found the one that worked."

"Remember, whenever you have a problem, just like Ollie and his friends, you can think of lots of different ideas to solve it. And don't forget—you can always ask your friends or family for help too!"

Activity 2: Brainstorming Session(15 minutes)



1. Introduce Activity

It's time for us to try some problem-solving on our own. We're going to do something called a 'Brainstorming Session.' What do we remember about Brainstorming?"

(Wait for the children to respond.)

Teacher:

"Brainstorming means thinking of lots and lots of ideas to solve a problem. Today, we're going to practice thinking of as many ideas as we can to solve a problem, just like Ollie the Owl did in our story. Are you ready to get started?"

Activity Instructions

"Let's start with a problem, just like Ollie had in the story. Hmm, let's see... Imagine that a toy is stuck up in a tall tree. We want to get it down, but we're not sure how. What can we do to solve this problem?"

Encourage Idea Generation:

"Now, I want everyone to think of one idea to help get the toy down from the tree. Remember, there's no wrong answer! The more ideas we come up with, the better chance we have of finding the best solution."

(As the children raise their hands to share ideas, write down or draw each suggestion on a large piece of paper or whiteboard. Encourage the children to keep thinking and to build on each other's ideas.)

"That's a great idea! We could try using a long stick to reach the toy. What else could we try? Maybe we could shake the tree gently, or ask a tall friend to help us. Any other ideas?"

Discuss the Ideas:

"Wow, look at all these amazing ideas! You all did such a great job brainstorming. Let's take a look at our list and talk about each idea. What do you think would happen if we used a stick? Could it reach the toy?"

(Go through each idea, discussing the pros and cons with the children. Encourage them to think critically about why some ideas might work better than others.)

"What about asking a friend for help? How could that make the problem easier to solve? Does anyone think they have a favorite idea?"

Select the Best Ideas:

"Now that we've talked about all our ideas, let's choose the one we think might work the best. But remember, sometimes it takes more than one idea to solve a problem. So even if our first idea doesn't work, we can always try another one!"

(Allow the children to vote or discuss which idea they think is the best. Emphasize that the goal is to try different solutions until they find the one that works.)

"Great choice! We're going to try [chosen idea]. But if it doesn't work, don't worry! We have lots of other ideas to try, too."

Act Out the Solution (Optional):

"Let's pretend we're solving the problem right now. I'll act out the problem, and you can help me by acting out the solution. Let's see if our idea works!"

(If time allows, you can have the children act out the problem and solution as a way to reinforce the brainstorming process.)

"Okay, I'm going to pretend the toy is stuck in the tree. Now, who wants to show us how they would use the stick to get it down?"

(Guide the children through the act of solving the problem using their selected solution.)

Wrap-Up

"That was so much fun! You all came up with so many smart ideas to solve the problem. What did we learn today about solving problems?"

(Encourage the children to share what they learned. Reinforce the key message that brainstorming lots of ideas is important because it helps us find the best solution.)

"That's right! We learned that when we have a problem, we should think of as many ideas as we can. Even if our first idea doesn't work, we have lots of other ideas to try. And when we work together, we can solve problems more easily."

"Can anyone think of a problem they might have at home or at school that they could solve by brainstorming ideas? Maybe next time you have a problem, you can try coming up with lots of different solutions, just like we did today."

(Allow a few children to share their thoughts.)

Wrapping it Up

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- After students complete their reflections, invite volunteers to share what they learned from their reflections.
- Encourage students to continue using the strategy in their daily lives

Review and Reflection Teacher Script



1. **Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**

- "Let's all come back together in a circle."

2. **Closing**

- "Today, we learned all about solving problems by brainstorming lots of different ideas, just like Ollie the Owl. Can anyone share one thing they learned today about how to solve problems?"
(Allow the children to raise their hands and share their thoughts. Encourage them to speak up and give positive reinforcement to their answers.)
- "Those are fantastic ideas! We learned that when we have a problem, it's important to think of many different solutions. Sometimes our first idea doesn't work, but that's okay! We can try another idea and see if that one works better."

Home Connection Letter

1. **Sending Information Home:**

- "Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home that explains what we learned today in class."
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson.

Dear Families,

Today in class, we learned about the importance of brainstorming and problem-solving through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Solve Problems." This story teaches children that thinking of many different ideas and trying various solutions can help us find the best way to solve a problem.

Here's what we learned:

- Brainstorming: Understanding that thinking of many ideas can help us find the best solution to a problem.
- Problem-Solving: Recognizing that trying different solutions and working together can make problem-solving easier and more effective.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and a brainstorming session where we thought of different ways to solve problems. You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to think of multiple solutions when they face a challenge and to work together with family members to find the best solution.

Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

