

Problem-Solving

Problem: Look and Read

Look at the problem. Read the problem, identifying key words and the question by underlining both. Circle any words you do not know. (Pretend you don't know a word for modeling purposes.) Ask yourself aloud, "Did I understand what I read? Do I understand what the question is asking?"

Picture: Envision and Draw Picture Section

Say, "I am envisioning/visualizing/making a mind movie of the problem. Draw a picture of the problem in this space. Tell the problem back to yourself aloud using the picture as a guide. Model this by putting your finger under each part of the picture as you speak. Say aloud, "Does it make sense? Yes, it makes sense."

Numbers: Think Aloud and Solve

Say, "Now I am deciding how to solve the problem." Write the number sentence down as you say the picture story aloud again. Say, "Do my number sentence and my picture match? Do they tell the same story? Yes, they do."

Words: Explain in Writing

Model writing what you did in words to solve the problem. Using a Think Aloud, model checking your work and going back to the first section to make sure it matches the picture. Model checking to make sure the picture matches the numbers and the numbers match the words. Explain that you are now ready to discuss and compare your work with your partner. Model explaining your solution. Explain that you and your partner are now ready to share and discuss the problem with the whole class.