Using the Team to Find Strategies for Solving Problems: Practicing the Team Problem Solving Process

(Lesson 1a)

This activity will allow you to practice the problem solving process that you learned about in the lesson. If you are already working as a job coach or a paraprofessional, meet with your team or a small group of coworkers to identify solutions to a problem (or strategies to meet a team goal). If you are not yet working as a paraprofessional, practice the problem-solving process with a group of coworkers, friends or family members. Use the questions below as a guide.

Questions

1. Identify, specifically, a problem or conflict that you wish to address. Alternatively, identify a proposed goal that your team wants to work towards. What problem or goal have you identified?
2. Brainstorm several possible solutions to the problem or conflict, or ideas that could help your team achieve your goal. Remember that during this phase, all ideas should be counted. Record all ideas below.

3. Eliminate brainstorm ideas that may be inappropriate or not achievable. Which ideas are you eliminating, and why?

4. Make a list of final possible strategies that could be pursued.
5. Set a time line of *when, where* and *how long* the strategy can be pursued. Describe when, where and for how long the strategy will be pursued in the space below.

6. Who will be responsible for carrying out the different steps of the strategy?

7. How will you measure whether or not the strategy is working?

8. When will you meet again to follow-up and discuss whether or not the strategy has worked and how it could be improved?