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# Ways to Solve Problems

It is important to relax before trying to solve problems. For example, taking a few deep breaths encourages creative thinking.

#### **Step I.** What is the problem? Name it. Clarify it.

- $\boxtimes$  What happened?
- ☑ What are you doing about it?
- $\boxtimes$  Is it working?

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#### Step 2. How big a problem is it?

- ☑ Trace a hand, numbering thumb and fingers.
- On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 not much of a problem and 5 a big problem, assign a number to the problem.
- Mow does it make you feel?

#### Step 3. What could you do?

- What could you do to solve the problem?
- $\boxtimes$  What else could you do?
- $\boxtimes$  What other ideas might work?

## Step 4. What would you like to try doing?

- Which idea will you choose?
- $\boxtimes$  What might happen if you choose to do it?
- $\boxtimes$  Will it make things better or worse?

## Step 5. (Some time later) How well did the solution work?

- ☑ What happened?
- ☑ Was the problem solved?
- $\boxtimes$  If not, what else can you do?

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