ICPS
I CAN PROBLEM SOLVE

Teaching Children How to Think Not What to Think

What is "I Can Problem Solve?"

I Can Problem Solve (ICPS) is a universal school-based program that focuses on enhancing the interpersonal cognitive processes and problem-solving skills of children ages 4-12. ICPS is based on the idea that there are a set of skills that shape how children behave in interpersonal situations. These skills are influenced by:

- Whether they can **predict the consequences** of their own actions

- How they **view their conflicts** with others

- Whether they can **think of solutions** to these problems

Rather than addressing specific behaviors as right or wrong, ICPS uses games, stories, puppets, illustrations, and role-plays to help children learn a problem-solving vocabulary, to understand their own as well as others' feelings, think of alternative solutions, and think of potential consequences to an act.

ICPS aims to **prevent and reduce early high-risk behaviors,** such as impulsivity and social withdrawal,

and promote pro-social behaviors, such as concern for others and positive peer relationships.

A key principle of ICPS is that **the child, not the teacher, must solve the problem** by considering the consequences of one's actions.

Program lessons are differentiated for different grade levels, including:
- **Preschool** (for age 4)
- **Kindergarten and primary grades** (for K through grade 2 or 3)
- **Intermediate elementary grades** (for grades 3 or 4 through grade 6)

Sara flies off the handle when she doesn't get the teacher's attention right away.

Darrin is constantly pushing and shoving his classmates on the playground.

Problems like these no doubt come up in your school.

ICPS will give you a new way to talk to kids.

Expected Outcomes

Increased

- Pro-social behaviors
- Empathic responses
- Social problem-solving skills

Improved

Academic achievement as ICPS skills are learned

Reduced

Aggression, impulsivity, over-emotionality and withdrawn/inhibited behavior.

Training Programs

For families, teachers and other professionals

I Can Problem Solve
Training for schools and implementers
(2-day comprehensive training, with follow-up support)

I Can Problem Solve
Train-the-Trainer for schools and professionals
(3-day initial training, with follow-up)

Raising a Thinking Child
This program introduces parents to the underlying theory and skills of ICPS

Raising a Thinking Child
Train-the-Trainer for Parent Educators and Professionals
(2-day Training)

Shorter overview presentations are available for audiences interested in these programs.

Q&A

Who is the author of the ICPS program?
The program developer is Myrna B. Shure, PhD, a developmental psychologist at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Is ICPS research-based?
ICPS is based on over thirty years of research and has been the focus of more than 25 research studies.

What behaviors improve?
Educators see less physical, verbal and relational aggression, inability to wait and cope with frustration and withdrawn behaviors. They witness increased empathy and improved peer relationships.

Who is ICPS for?
I Can Problem Solve has been successfully implemented with students ages 4-12, including African-American/Black, American Indian, Asian-American/Pacific-Islander, Hispanic/Latino and White/European American youth. The program has been implemented with children in Brazil, Greece, India, Israel, Korea and the United States.

Where can ICPS be used?
ICPS is a classroom curriculum approach used in preschools, early elementary and upper elementary schools. It can also be used in afterschool and faith-based programs.