

Anytime Problem Tips



Steps 1 to 8

1

THEY CAN BE DONE ANYTIME!

2

WORK ON THEM AT DIFFERENT TIMES!

Try the beginning of math class, bell ringer (morning work), transition work (when students need to calm down and get invested in something (ie. After lunch), middle of math block, or end of math block.)

3

USE WHILE ASSISTING OTHER STUDENTS

Some teachers find success doing the anytime problems at the end of the math block when they are assisting individuals with help or pulling small groups.

4

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DO A NEW PROBLEM EVERY DAY.

You might choose to do one problem for multiple days through a scaffolded approach, one problem with different numbers each day, or just choose to do only a few problems each week.

5

TAKE YOUR TIME BUILDING GOOD PROBLEM-SOLVING TECHNIQUES.

Take time to dissect the problem, act it out, etc. in order to identify the situation. Have students share their thinking and understanding.

6

10 MINUTES ONLY!

These problems will take time and perseverance, but don't work on them for longer than 10 minutes! See #5. Have a student leader set a timer for this.

7

TRY DIFFERENT STRUCTURES.

Perhaps do the problem with the whole class to provide an opportunity to model thinking, problem solving strategies. Consider using a class rubric or a check sheet for all that a problem/answer should entail. Grade yourselves as a class on your constructed response. After a few times as a class, go to small groups, then partners, then individually.