






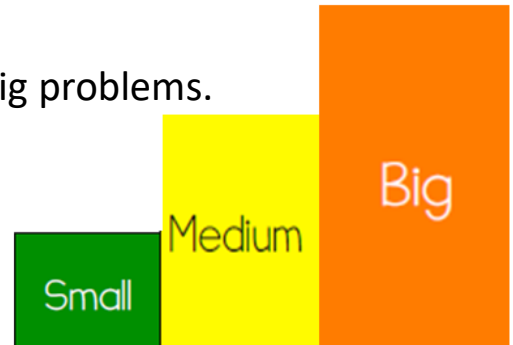
# Size of the Problem

**Size of the Problem** is an approach that is used in schools to support pupils to develop their problem solving skills.


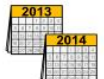



Problems are categorised into small, medium or big problems.

## Small Problem





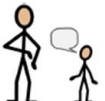
How many people does it affect?	1 or 2	
How long does it last?	A couple minutes.	
IS anyone hurt?!	No, just small upset feelings.	
How long does it take to fix the problem?	5 to 15 minutes	
How many people does it take to solve the problem?	I can usually solve it myself! Most people can just ignore it!	



## Big Problem

How many people does it affect?	10 or more!	
How long does it last?	Months or years	
IS anyone hurt?!	Yes! They might have to go to the hospital	
How long does it take to fix the problem?	Months or years	
How many people does it take to solve the problem?	20 or more people	

## Medium Problem

How many people does it affect?	3 to 9	
How long does it last?	Days or weeks	
IS anyone hurt?!	Only a little cut/scrape or just very upset feelings	
How long does it take to fix the problem?	15 minutes to an hour	
How many people does it take to solve the problem?	Need an adult to help solve!	

## Size of the Reaction

After categorising problems into sizes, pupils are encouraged to consider the size of the reaction. The size of the problem and size of the reaction should match up.

When discussing size of the reaction, consider the following:

- Who can fix it?
- What can I do?
- What number am I on the Six Point Scale?



## Size of the Problem at Home:

At home, be problem solving detectives together.

Remember: When a problem happens, stop and think, decide the level of the problem, and figure out what you should do.

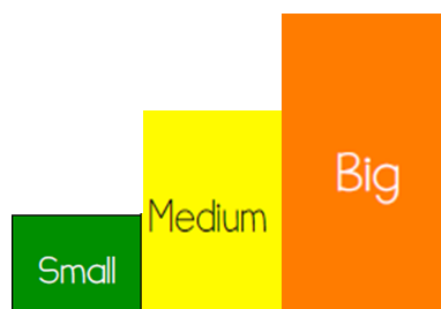
Examples of problems to discuss with your child:

- Losing a game
- Someone pushes you
- Coronavirus
- Big storm
- Substitute teacher
- No school for a few months
- The park is closed
- You are last in the queue to buy something
- Miss the bus to school
- You fall off your bike
- Someone takes your money



YouTube has a 'Size of the Problem' playlist to look through with your child

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLao8IPmF00c5On1xjRQbQZMGo7IAPBquO> or search on YouTube "Size of the Problem playlist" it is the first playlist to come up by 'Shannon Sells, SLP'



Children's Integrated Speech and Language Therapy Service for Hackney and the City