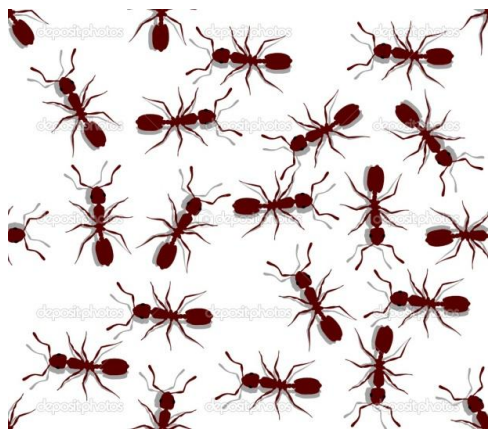


THE ANT AND THE ELEPHANT PROCESS FOR WORKING THROUGH PROBLEMS

Students are asked if the problem is an “ant” or an “elephant”?

The reason we ask students to identify if the problem is an “ant” or an “elephant” is because we want students to build up the skills to identify when they can be resilient enough to solve the problem and when they need to involve an adult to help them solve the problem. This is an important life skill.



An ant problem is something small that they can work out a solution for themselves – eg student A teases student B is an ant problem because student B should be able to ignore the minor teasing and if it continues then student B informs the teacher.



An elephant problem is something much bigger that requires an adult to help the students to work out a solution – eg student A hits student B for no apparent reason and continues to punch student B. In this case student B needs to inform the teacher immediately and ask the teacher to sort it out. The teacher then takes the appropriate action.