

## **Learning Activity for Solving Problems** **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**Objective:** The students will be able to discuss how to solve word problems using different strategies, including identifying key operation words.

**Materials:** Problem solving activity cards illustrating different problem-solving strategies; guess and check, work backwards, make a table, draw a picture, act it out, find a pattern, logical reasoning

### **Solving 'Real Life' Problems**

When you read a story problem, you really have to think.

This little trick may be of help to you.

When you read these words in the question part,

This song here will tell you what to do.

When you read the words fewer, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

When you read the words fewer, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

But when you read the words and, in all,

And altogether too...Add is what you'll do!

When you read the words fewer, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

When you read the words greater, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

When you read the words greater, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

But when you read the words and, in all,

And altogether too...Add is what you'll do!

When you read the words greater, more or less,

When you take a test...fewer, more or less,

When you take a test...greater, more or less,

When you take a test...you subtract!

### **Procedure:**

- 1) Students brainstorm words that mean to add or subtract.
- 2) Teacher records student ideas on the board.
- 3) Play the song.
- 4) Add any other words from the song. Keep a word wall of key operation words for students to refer to.
- 5) Give each group 1 word problem to identify the key operation words and solve. Students will report out to the class the key words and how they solved the problem. Repeat the process one more time.

**Evaluation:** Teacher observation while students are working and reporting out to demonstrate an understanding of key words and several problem solving strategies.