

# BRAVE LEARNING STARTS WITH MISTAKES

Mistakes aren't detours in learning... they are the path. 

1

**Celebrate the try** by rewarding effort, not just accuracy. Highlight brave attempts and normalize risk-taking. **Try this:**

- Praise how students approach problems.
- Start a weekly "Brave Try" shout-out.
- Post a "Risk Wall" to showcase effort.

2

**Turn mistakes into teaching tools** by shifting the narrative: mistakes are part of the process. **Try this:**

- Share your own mistakes and what you learned.
- Revisit "favorite mistakes" to reinforce concepts.
- Use nonjudgmental language when giving feedback.

3

**Use low-stakes practice** and create chances to try without fear of grades or judgment. **Try this:**

- Use whiteboards or think-pair-share.
- Allow revisions and reattempts.
- Offer anonymous quizzes or polls for practice.

4

**Promote growth language** by framing effort and struggle as signs of learning, not failure. **Try this:**

- Say "You worked hard on that," not "You're smart."
- Ask "What mistake helped you most this week?"
- Display growth mindset quotes in your space.

## Children's Books recommended by Dr. Donaldson



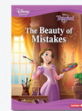
[It's OK to Make Mistakes](#)



[Mermaid Mia & the Royal Visit](#)



[Even Superheroes Make Mistakes](#)



[The Beauty of Mistakes](#)



[But It's Not My Fault!](#)



[Atch...oops!](#)



[Cliff the Failed Troll](#)



[A Whale of a Mistake](#)

Source: Donaldson, M., Benmoussa, S.\*, & Hwang, M.\* (2024). Oopses on the page: A content analysis of children's picturebooks featuring mistakes. Early Childhood Education Journal, 52(7), 1459-1470. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-023-01546-z>