



EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES

TEACHER'S GUIDE



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EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES

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EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES

Introduction

Making mistakes can typically cause children to feel bad about themselves and elicit feelings of anger and frustration. It's important for students to learn to distinguish between different kinds of mistakes such as silly mistakes, mistakes that take time to fix, and mistakes that can't be fixed. In this program, kids learn that mistakes are just a part of everyone's life. It's how we respond to the mistakes we make that really matters. This program, promotes the fact that mistakes happen and that a mistake can be a learning experience. In addition, children will come to understand that through hard work and practice, some mistakes can be repaired. Children who don't have an available repertoire of social and coping skills can easily turn to violence, anger or self-harm when they face an upsetting or vulnerable situation. Conversely, when we help kids learn and develop positive social and coping skills, we provide them with alternatives that can help turn problem situations into positive outcomes. Get-Along-Monsters is an entertaining and engaging children's DVD series designed to teach children, grades K-4 important skills necessary for successful social interaction and emotional management. Each episode combines humorous, animated segments and age-appropriate, live-action scenarios to demonstrate easy-to-understand skills.

Learning Objectives

This program is designed to help students learn:

- Some mistakes can be fixed.
- It's okay to ask for help.
- You can learn from your mistakes.
- Some mistakes cannot be fixed.
- Failure can lead to success.



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Program Summary

ASK FOR HELP

Kelsey is painting a picture in the living room. She spills paint on the carpet. Try as she might, the stain won't come out. She couldn't fix it. Kelsey decides to cover the stain by moving a chair and strategically placing some pillows. When her mom discovers the stain, Kelsey learns that some mistakes can be fixed if you ask for help.

LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES

Andrew makes one wrong keystroke and the story he worked on for so long disappears. He couldn't fix his mistake, but he learned a valuable lesson from messing up.

DON'T GIVE UP

Sara is trying to follow directions, but keeps messing up. She becomes frustrated and feels like quitting. Sara learns that you don't have to give up when you make a mistake. You can keep trying and find a way to succeed.



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Send-Home Letter

Dear Family Member:

Your child has seen a program called, "Everybody Makes Mistakes." In this program, kids learn that mistakes are just a part of everyone's life. It's how we respond to the mistakes we make that really matters. This program promotes the fact that mistakes happen and that a mistake can be a learning experience. In addition, children will come to understand that through hard work and practice, some mistakes can be repaired.

Through the fictionalized stories of four young children, this program is designed to help students understand:

- Some mistakes can be fixed.
- It's okay to ask for help.
- You can learn from your mistakes.
- Some mistakes cannot be fixed.
- Failure can lead to success.

Talk with your child about what he or she learned from the program. Discuss mistakes they may have made and how they felt about it. Talk about ways to handle mistakes that aligns with your family's values.



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Guidelines for Group Discussion

Group discussion is an invaluable way to explore ideas and issues, foster creativity, and build communication and social skills in young students. The following guidelines can help you maintain a “discussion-friendly” classroom:

- **Create a climate of openness and acceptance.** Encourage students to show respect for the opinions of others and model this behavior yourself.
- **Establish ground rules.** Students can participate in formulating the rules for discussion. Rules will vary, but should include some of these general principles: No putdowns, ridicule or sarcasm. Everyone may speak without interruption. Everyone has the right to pass.
- **Guard against inappropriate self-disclosure.** An intense discussion may lead students to reveal inappropriate information about themselves or others. Sensitivity and vigilance can help you head off such revelations.
- **Probe behind the neat and tidy answers.** Children are good at telling adults what they think adults want to hear. To find out what students really think, it is often helpful to prolong discussion time and encourage greater depth. Offer a “What if...?”; bring out issues such as fairness, justice, intent or lack of it, and so on. Children have a remarkable capacity to discern complexities and subtleties, and their discussions can be very rich.



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Questions for Discussion

1. How do you think Kelsey felt when she spilled the paint on the living room carpet?
2. Why did Kelsey try to hide the spill?
3. Why do you think she didn't ask her mom for help right away?
4. Explain why Kelsey's mom was disappointed?
5. How do you feel when you make a silly mistake?
6. Why is it important to learn from the mistakes you make?
7. Trying something new can be frustrating. What are some ways you can reduce the stress and frustration?



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Handout #1

Read the sentences below. If you agree, color the thumbs up sign. If you disagree, color the thumbs down sign.

1. Everybody makes mistakes sometimes.



2. Making mistakes is not a good way to learn something new.



3. It's okay to ask for help after you've made a mistake.



4. Failure can never lead to success.



5. It's important to give up after you make a mistake.



6. Mistakes can help you to learn new things.





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Handout #2

Read each sentence. Draw a picture or write a sentence to tell what you would do in the situation.

Sam plays baseball. He can't hit the ball. He wants to quit the team.

Lee is starting to cry because she accidentally knocked over her mom's favorite crystal vase. It shattered all over the floor.

Carly rushed through her math test and didn't check her answers. She's upset when she learns she failed the test.



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Handout #3

Making mistakes can cause you to feel many different kinds of feelings.
Draw a face that matches the emotion written below.

Sad

Angry

Embarrassed

Frustrated



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Handout #4

Journal Entry

Draw a picture and write a sentence about a time you made a mistake. How did it make you feel?



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SCRIPT: EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES

ASK FOR HELP

HOST

Nobody likes to make mistakes, but everybody does. Making mistakes is just part of being a person. Making a mistake can make you feel bad about yourself. But lots of times there are things you can do to fix the mistake. That's something KELSEY discovered.

HOST

KELSEY really enjoys painting. Most of the time she would paint on the kitchen table, but her mom had been doing work on the table and she left all kinds of folders, papers and books. There was no room for KELSEY to paint.

HOST

So KELSEY laid some newspaper down on the living room carpet. She sat down and began to paint. She was being so careful with every brush stroke she took. Then KELSEY got up to get a drink of water.

HOST

Her foot caught the edge of the newspaper. The newspaper moved and the paint spilled onto the carpet. But KELSEY didn't see the spill, until she got back.



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KELSEY

Oh no. What am I going to do?

HOST

KELSEY had really messed up and she knew it. Right away, she got a cloth to try to clean it up her mess.

KELSEY

Oh no. It's not working.

HOST

KELSEY tried and tried to get rid of the stain. But she couldn't. She figured that there was nothing anyone could do to fix it. Her parents were going to be really upset. So, KELSEY thought that the best thing she could do was cover it up.

HOST

So KELSEY moved a chair over the spot and arranged some pillows until you couldn't see the stain anymore. Then she just waited and worried. Hopefully no one would notice. But that didn't happen.

MOM

Hi KELSEY. Who moved the chair?

KELSEY

Uh. Me.



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MOM

Why?

KELSEY

I thought it would be good here.

MOM

I think I'd like it back where it was. KELSEY, what happened?

KELSEY

There was no room on the table, so I painted on the floor, but the newspaper moved and the paint spilled. I tried to clean it up, but I couldn't and I didn't want you to find out.

MOM

Well. I'm a little disappointed.

KELSEY

It was an accident.

MOM

I'm disappointed you didn't come to me for help.

KELSEY

But it's ruined...and you can't fix it.

MOM

Maybe we can.



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KELSEY

Really?

HOST

So, KELSEY's mom got some special cleaner—and slowly and steadily the paint stain came out.

KELSEY

You can't even tell there was stain there.

MOM

All fixed.

HOST

So KELSEY learned that some mistakes can be fixed. And when you make a mistake, you shouldn't be afraid to ask someone to help you fix it.

LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES

HOST

Sometimes you may make a mistake that can't be fixed. But even then you can usually learn something that will help you the next time. That's what happened to Andrew.



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HOST

Andrew's class was in the computer lab. There assignment was writing a short story Andrew was writing a story he called Kid Ninjas. It was about kids who became Ninjas and helped to defeat an evil king. Andrew worked very hard on the story. When he was just about done, his friend Elliot came over to see what his story was about.

ELLIOT

What's your story about?

ANDREW

Ninjas.

ELLIOT

Cool. Are you done?

ANDREW

Yep. I just have to print it out. I just want to save the font.

ELLIOT

Hey, what happened to the screen.

ANDREW

The computer crashed.

ELLIOT

That's okay. You saved your story, right?



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ANDREW

Yeah, I think so. I hit control save after every sentence.

ELLIOT

Control save? You mean command save.

ANDREW

No "control save."

ELLIOT

I don't think so.

HOST

Now Andrew was worried. Did he save his story? They got the computer back up...and searched all the documents. Kid Ninjas wasn't there. Andrew made a mistake—he hit the wrong keys to save his story.

ANDREW

I can't believe I lost the whole story.

HOST

Andrew was really upset. One simple mistake and he lost his whole story. At first he was really mad at himself for making such a big mistake. But then he realized, the story was still in his head, even if it was gone from the computer. His teacher let him stay after school to do it again, the best way he could.



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HOST

This time he made sure he hit the right keys to save the story. It took him a little while, but he saved the story for the last time and printed it out.

HOST

Andrew was very happy that he learned from his mistake. This time he did it right. Andrew learned that some mistakes can't be fixed...but you can learn valuable lessons from messing up. I bet he saves his work on the computer all the time now. He learned from his mistake.



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DON'T GIVE UP

HOST

Did you ever try to do something and make a mistake, then make another mistake and another. Sometimes you may feel like just giving up. That's just how Kelsey felt when she began working on a new project.

HOST

Kelsey loved to build things. For her birthday, she had gotten a cool construction set. She was very excited as she began to read the directions.

HOST

She began putting the pieces together, one by one. But for some reason—it wasn't really looking like the plans in the instruction booklet. What was she doing wrong? She had to make a mistake somewhere along the line. But where?

HOST

Kelsey worked so hard, but it wasn't coming out right. Fortunately, her older brother came by and was able to get her on the right track. He showed her where she made her mistakes. He told her it's okay to make mistakes...as long as you can learn from them.



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HOST

Kelsey made a mistake. But then, with some help, she was able to do it the right way. But then, she made another mistake. She hooked up the motor and turned on the switch, but it didn't work.

HOST

Kelsey was getting frustrated because she messed up, again.

KELSEY

What did I do wrong?

KELSEY

I can't do this. It's too hard.

HOST

Then she remembered how her brother discovered the last mistake. He just carefully went through the directions and found the mistake. She could do that. She decided to give it one more try.

HOST

So Kelsey learned that when you make a mistake, you don't have to give up, you can keep trying and find a way to succeed. She messed up a few times in putting the helicopter together. But Kelsey didn't give up. She kept trying and made it work. Her brother was really impressed, too.



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CONCLUSION

HOST

So next time you make a mistake don't feel so bad.

First, you can try to fix it. If you can't fix it yourself, you can ask for help.

If it can't be fixed, then learn from your mistake, so you won't make the same mistake, again.

And if you keep making mistakes—keep trying, don't give up, cause everyone makes mistakes and that's okay.