



Listening Time:



34:11

## SEASON 4 , THEME 4

### Making Mistakes

Mistakes are not just inevitable — they're essential. Mistakes offer opportunities for critical thinking, resilience, and a deeper understanding of the learning process. Yet, as educators, we often see students hesitate, fearing failure instead of embracing mistakes as an important part of growth and learning.

Creating a classroom culture where mistakes are viewed as stepping stones to success encourages students to take risks, ask questions, and push beyond their comfort zones. When we shift the focus from getting the "right" answer to valuing effort, curiosity, and perseverance, we help students develop a growth mindset — one that views challenges as opportunities rather than obstacles.

On this episode, 3 kids discuss mistakes and practice making mistakes! To help listeners further explore mistakes, we've compiled these educational resources and in-class activities that can help children reframe their thinking about mistakes. These tools will encourage reflection, resilience, and a love for learning — because the journey matters just as much as the destination.



### Scribble to Masterpiece

Pre-K-3rd Grade



#### Goals

- ♥ Build fine motor skills
- ♥ Practice resilience and adaptability
- ♥ Encourage creative thinking

#### Instructions



##### Play the Episode

If the class has not yet listened to the “Making Mistakes” episode of Little Kids, Big Hearts, start by listening! It's wherever you listen to podcasts. Learn more (or listen) at [playsparkler.org/podcast](https://playsparkler.org/podcast).

#### Materials



##### Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ Unlined sheets of paper
- ♥ Pencils, markers, crayons and/or colored pencils

#### Activity



##### Part 1: Scribble Freely

- ♥ Give each student a blank sheet of paper and a pencil, crayon, or marker.
- ♥ Set a timer for 30 seconds and have them make a random scribble — any shape, swirl, or jagged line — without overthinking it.
- ♥ Emphasize that there's no right or wrong way to scribble.

##### Part 2: Find the Possibilities

- ♥ Ask students to rotate their paper and look at their scribble from different angles.
- ♥ What does the scribble remind them of: A face? An animal? A landscape?
- ♥ Encourage them to use their imagination and “find” something hidden in the scribble.

##### Part 3: Transform the Scribble

- ♥ Using additional drawing tools (markers, colored pencils, or crayons), have students build upon their scribbles to turn them into recognizable images.

##### Part 4: Add a Story (Optional)

- ♥ To deepen the creative process, students can give their artwork a title or even write a short story about what they created.



# Little Kids, Big Hearts Podcast

## Learning Extensions

### Perfectly Imperfect Expo

Elementary



#### Goals

- ♥ Build communication and listening skills.
- ♥ Cultivate confidence and risk-taking
- ♥ Foster teamwork and collaboration

#### Instructions



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#### Discussion



- ♥ Is it ever hard to say “I made a mistake”? Why or why not?
- ♥ Have you ever made a mistake that lead to a surprising outcome?
- ♥ Can you think of something you love to do even if you are not “perfect” at it?
- ♥ What's something you've tried that didn't go the way you planned, but you're glad you tried anyway?
- ♥ Bonus: Have your class try the “mistakes speed round” they played in the Land!

#### Activity



Break the class into groups of 4-5 students to brainstorm ideas for the **Perfectly Imperfect Expo**. Remind them that their activities should be engaging and interactive (not just watching or listening) and connect to the theme of mistakes leading to growth, learning, or creativity. Provide them with paper or the template on page 4 to outline their work.

Prompts:

- ♥ Can you create a game where making a mistake is part of winning?
- ♥ How could we use storytelling to share funny, famous, or personal mistake stories?
- ♥ Can you design a challenge where people have to “fail” first to succeed?
- ♥ What science experiments or inventions happened by accident? Does that give us any ideas?
- ♥ How could we use art to turn mistakes into masterpieces?

Finally, each group should present their ideas to the class.

# PERFECTLY IMPERFECT EXPO

## SUBMISSION FORM

Where Mistakes Are Celebrated!

<b>Group Name</b>	
<b>Activity Name</b>	
<b>Short Description</b>	
<b>Materials</b>	
<b>Notes</b>	