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Using Your Noodle as You Doodle

Purpose:

- to help students understand that making mistakes is OK
- to teach students that they can learn from their mistakes

Suggested Grade Levels: 1 - 3**For Use With:** Small groups, classrooms**Time Required for Lesson:** 30 - 35 minutes**Materials Required:**

For the leader:

- ☐ Optional: *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg

For each student:

- ☐ *Squiggly Starts* handout (Six designs are included to choose from: Section 1_Lesson 1A Digital Content: *Squiggly Starts.pdf*)
- ☐ Pencil and crayons or markers

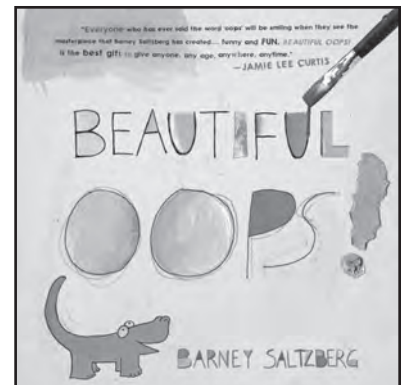
Introduction – We All Make Mistakes

Begin the lesson by saying:

“In this lesson, we are going to talk about mistakes. It’s OK to make mistakes. In fact, you can learn from your mistakes. (Continue if reading *Beautiful Oops!*) Today, we are going to read a book that teaches us that every mistake is an opportunity to learn and make something wonderful. Let’s begin”

Optional Book Reading – *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg

Read *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg to the students. Then discuss how each mistake in the book was used to create a beautiful masterpiece. Emphasize that everybody makes mistakes, it is a part of life, and that trying new things and making mistakes is how we learn and grow as a person.



Then ask:

“What do you think you might learn from making a mistake?”

“Can anyone tell us about a time you learned something from a making a mistake?”

“Do you think something positive can come from making a mistake?”

Alternative to Book Reading – A Sticky Mistake

Hold up a sticky note, then ask:

“Can anyone tell me what this is?” (Pause for responses, then continue.)

“That’s right! Did you know that sticky notes, or Post-It Notes®, were invented by mistake? The inventor, Spencer Silver, was actually trying to create a super strong adhesive. (Define adhesive if necessary.) But instead, he made a weak adhesive that could be used to stick something to a surface then be easily removed. (demonstrate) For years he and others worked on how to use this new adhesive and eventually Post-Its were invented. So, you see, mistakes can sometimes lead to learning about and creating new things.”

Emphasize that everybody makes mistakes, it is a part of life. Trying new things and making mistakes is how you learn and grow as a person.

Then ask:

“What do you think you might learn from making a mistake?”

“Can anyone tell us about a time you learned something from making a mistake?”

“Do you think something positive can come from making a mistake?”

Art Activity – Doodling: Mistake to Masterpiece!

Give each student a copy of the chosen *Squiggly Starts* handouts, a pencil, and crayons or markers.



Section 1 Lesson 1A Digital Content:
Squiggly Starts.pdf

Then say:

“Today, you are going to turn a mistake into a beautiful creation. The only rule is you have to start your doodle on the mistake on your paper.”

As the students are working, compliment them on their creativity.

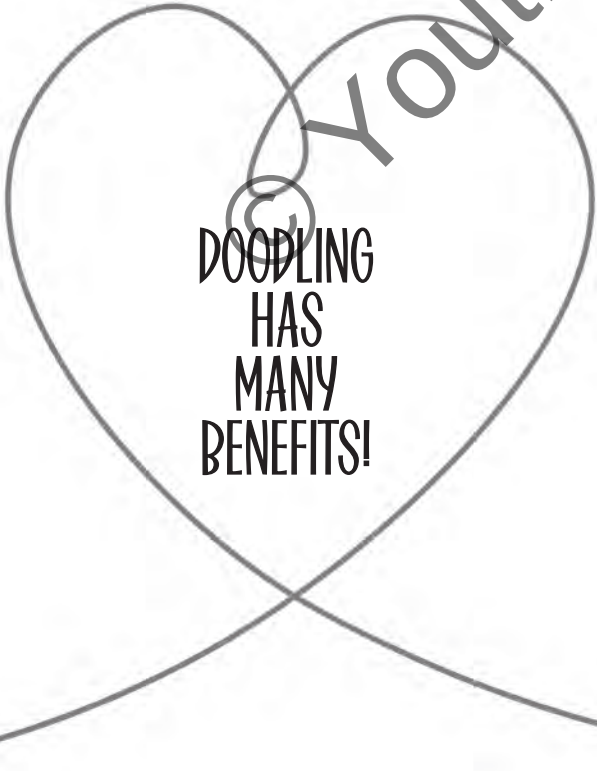
When creating their doodles, the students can make different patterns, characters, or designs from the abstract shapes. After the students complete their doodles, they can use crayons or markers to decorate their creations.

Conclusion

Conclude the lesson by saying:

“Today, we focused on how we can learn from our mistakes, and how sometimes a mistake leads to something positive or beautiful. Just as your doodle—which started as a scribbled mistake—turned into an interesting design, try to turn your mistakes into something you can learn from.”

Thank the students for doing a great job and for participating in the lesson.



DOODLING
HAS
MANY
BENEFITS!

Doodling ...

helps you concentrate and focus



encourages creativity



helps you process emotions



reduces stress

Using Your Noodle as You Doodle

Purpose:

- to help students become more resilient
- to have students learn that making mistakes is OK
- to have students learn that mistakes are a key component to learning

Suggested Grade Levels: 4 - 7**For Use With:** Small groups, classrooms**Time Required for Lesson:** 30 - 35 minutes**Materials Required:**

For each student:

- ☐ *Squiggly Starts* handout (Six designs are included to choose from: Section 1_Lesson 1B Digital Content: Squiggly Starts.pdf)
- ☐ Pencil and crayons or markers

Introduction – We All Make Mistakes

Begin the lesson by saying:

“This lesson will focus on helping you to be more resilient. One way to build resilience is to understand that mistakes can have a positive impact. Mistakes provide valuable insight and teach us to welcome challenges and move forward. This lesson will focus on a few important mistakes made throughout history that made a positive difference to the world and how you can learn from your mistakes.”

Discussion – Mistakes Can Be Valuable

Discuss an important mistake made in history that resulted in something positive occurring. Examples include the Slinky® by Richard James and Post-It Notes® by Spencer Silver.

Internet resources include:

<http://mag.amazing-kids.org/non-fiction/stories/inventions-that-were-mistakes/>
<https://www.storypick.com/inventions-made-by-mistake/>

Then discuss in what ways the mistake resulted in something valuable or positive.

Continue the lesson by asking:

“What would you consider to be a big mistake?”

“What was the biggest mistake you ever made? What did you learn from it?”

“What is one action you can take after you make a big mistake?” (admit you made a mistake, think about what you could do differently next time, take responsibility for your actions, think about what went wrong so you can learn from your mistake, etc.)

Art Activity – Doodling: Mistake to Masterpiece!

Give each student a copy of the chosen *Squiggly Starts* handout, a pencil, and crayons or markers. Then say:

“Today, you are going to fix a scribbled mistake on your paper by doodling anything you want. The only rule is you have to start off your doodle on the mistake on the paper.”

(Note: To make the activity more challenging, instruct the students not to pick up their pencils when doodling. If a student picks up his/her pencil, encourage the student to continue.)



Section 1_Lesson 1B Digital Content:
Squiggly Starts.pdf

As the students are working, compliment them on their creativity. When creating their doodles, the students can make different patterns or designs from the abstract shapes. After the students complete their doodles, they can use crayons or markers to decorate their creations.

Conclusion

Conclude the lesson by saying:

“Today, we focused on how we can learn from our mistakes, and how sometimes a mistake leads to something positive, creative, or valuable. When you make a mistake, ask yourself: ‘What can I learn from this?’ Remember, mistakes are an opportunity to learn and grow as a person. As Albert Einstein said: ‘A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.’”

Thank the students for doing a great job and for participating in the lesson.