



Model making mistakes

Modelling a growth mindset means being willing to try hard even when failure is likely *because that's how growth happens*. If we have positive responses to mistakes children start to think of mistakes as a natural part of the learning process. This leads to a few important changes in learning behaviour:

1. Children stop avoiding challenging work just because it could mean making more mistakes.
2. Children become less likely to try to "sweep mistakes under the rug" because they stop thinking of them as something to be ashamed of.

Have a go....

- Make mistakes in front of your children, have a positive reaction to those mistakes, and openly reflect on what could be learned from the mistake. Try to show that *it's all about learning*, not about *being right*.
- At the dinner table, talk about a time that you struggled with something and how hard it is and how you overcame it. Then ask your children if there's anything they struggled with, how they overcome it, and what they learned from the experience.
- Be positive when your child makes a mistake and help him/her think through what could be learned from it. Even mistakes that seem careless can be good learning opportunities.

Why are we doing this?

We want our children to have positive responses to mistakes so they start to think of mistakes as a natural part of the learning process.