

Mister Rogers

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Let's Go Beyond

“Try, try again.”

Hedda Sharapan, M.S.

sharapan@fredrogers.org

www.fredrogers.org



**Video of Ella Jenkins teaching
Mister Rogers (and one of his
neighbors) a song – and he keeps
trying to get it.**



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Keep trying

What helps children want to try?

Relationship

Relationship

Relationship



Keep trying + _____?

**What helps children get better
and/or succeed?**

Carol Dweck's research

Positive attitude toward challenges



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Fixed mindset vs Growth mindset

Fixed = intelligence is static

Avoid challenges

Give up easily

Think trying won't help

Growth= intelligence can be developed

Desire to learn

Embrace challenges

Persist in face of setbacks

Think trying is the path to mastery



Praise the trying:

That looks like it took a lot of work!

I noticed you kept working on it.

How did you figure that out?

You tried a lot of ways before you figured it out!



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Positive attitude - Preschool

What's it like to try something hard and not get it?

Flop like a beanbag – or bounce like a ball?

Challenges help grow our brains – feel good!

Previous challenges they have overcome?

“Challenge Board” outdoors – “treasure hunt”

Conflict? Brainstorm 3 ways to solve it.

What challenge did you work on today?



Positive attitude – Early elementary

Read some pages from My Fantastic Elastic Brain

Brainstormed list of what the brain does

What have they learned to do now?

Book - pages about getting better in soccer

What do they hope to get better at?

Blank sheet of paper folded in half

Draw what you learned to do well.

I learned _____.

Draw what you want to get better at.

I want to learn _____.

Growth vs fixed mindset

Examples of how to use the growth mindset



Keep trying +

Positive attitude about challenges

+ ___?



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Video from Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood

O the Owl trying to make “the tallest tower in the world” from blocks, but they keep falling. The teacher helps him by suggesting he look closely at the picture of a block tower in his book. With that pointer, he realizes how he needs to put the bottom blocks so the tower is stronger. The strategy song is “Keep on trying, you’ll get better.”



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Keep trying +

Positive Attitude about challenges +

Scaffolding

Scaffolding –

temporary support so you can go higher



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Keep trying +

Positive attitude toward challenges +

Scaffolding

- **Strategies – pointers**
- **One step at a time**
- **Open-ended questions**



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Keep trying +

Positive attitude towards challenges +

Scaffolding



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**What can children say to themselves,
instead of “I can’t do it”?**

Let me try a different way.

This will take a long time.

Can you help me?

I’m still thinking.

Mistakes help me get better.

I can’t do it – yet.



Outtake video of Mister Rogers trying to put up a tent...when he just couldn't get it and threw it down, he decided not to try it on the program. Instead, he asked the crew to put it up. One of my favorite Fred Rogers quotes is "It's not a sign of weakness to ask for help – there's real strength in that." And that brings us back to why relationships are so important – so children feel safe asking for help.



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Resources:

Preschoolers Grow their Brains by Pawlina and Stanford - Young Children, September 2011

My Elastic, Fantastic Brain by JoAnn Deak

Carol Dweck – researcher (Ted Talk)



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Websites:

**www.fredrogerscenter.org -
for my free monthly
newsletter - “What we can
continue to learn from Fred
Rogers - click on newsletters**

**www.fredrogers.org
**www.pbskids.org/rogers
www.pbskids.org/daniel****



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