

How You Can Help Children Learn From Their Mistakes

Mistakes are an essential part of learning. Research on learning and motivation shows that how adults respond when children make mistakes strongly shapes how they learn from them.

Avoid Comforting Phrases

Well-meant reassurance can sometimes pull attention away from the mistake itself. Try not to rush in with comfort that ends reflection too quickly.



Encourage Self-Reflection



Instead of pointing out errors, guide children to find and fix them on their own. Questions and prompts support autonomy, motivation, and deeper learning.

Practice Patience

Reflective learning takes time. Children need repeated opportunities to notice, explore, and correct mistakes independently.



Focus on Learning, Not Results



When the goal is understanding or improvement, children engage more deeply and recover more effectively from mistakes.

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