

Students' Scaffolding Series
LEARNING FROM FAILURE

Pre-Session Activity

Make groups of five students each. On the white chit of paper given to each of you, write the name of the activity you like to do most, for example, '**dance**', '**sing**', '**story-telling**', '**paint**' and so on, fold the chit and drop it in the bowl given to your group. The presenter will collect all bowls and transfer all chits in one big bowl. She will now ask any one of the participants to come forward and ask her/him to pick one chit, and then the participant has to perform that task. Now answer the following questions:



- (a) Suppose you get a task that you think you are not good at, will you feel bad?**
- (b) Do you wish that you get the chit with your favourite activity?**
- (c) Should one feel like failing if she/he is not able to perform well in a task?**
- (d) Can everybody do everything?**

Learning Outcomes

- **What** is failure?
- **How** should we handle failures?
- **What** we learn from the feeling of a failure?



Is this a failure?

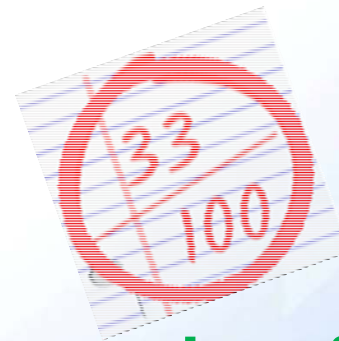
Each of us thinks differently about failure.

Is it a failure if something did not work in the manner we wanted it?

“I do not have any friends”, is it a failure?

“I am not good at playing football”, is it a failure?

“I got less marks in class test”, is it a failure?



...but **NONE** of the above is a failure....

What is failure?

When we start losing our confidence or when we stop trying, then it is a failure.

When we think there is no other way, then it is a failure.

Failure is in our thoughts only.



...If we are **determined**, we can do anything in our life, and we can **learn from failures** also...

Story of Sanjay

This boy like others daily used to feel good to go to his school. He, however, is not good at making friends. Over a period of time, he has started feeling like a 'failure'. Let's read his story.

Sanjay's father got transferred to a new town. The whole family was shifted to this new place. Sanjay's school also got changed. Around a month has passed but Sanjay is not able to make any friend in his class. He does not talk to anyone there. He does not take part in any activity. He keeps on thinking that 'no one likes him', 'no one wants to talk to him' and 'everybody makes fun of him'. He feels that he is a failure.



Story of Sanjay... (contd.)

Sanjay's elder brother Vijay, who is in the same school noticed him being sad. When he asked Sanjay, he started crying and told Vijay everything! Vijay listened everything carefully and asked Sanjay the following questions:

- *Who is new in this class – you or other students?*
- *Did you first try to talk to any student?*
- *Has anyone ignored you?*
- *Did anyone say 'they don't like you'?*
- *Have you heard anyone saying anything about you?*

Things started changing...

Sanjay was surprised that he never thought about these things. He took initiatives and now he has so many classmates.



Discussion Forum

- *Sanjay easily concluded that he was a failure.* Is it correct to have the feeling of failure?
- What mistakes did Sanjay make?
- Do you think he should have taken an initiative to talk to other students?
- Was he right in assuming that students don't like him or make fun of him?
- What would have you done if you were in place of Sanjay?



The questions Vijay asked Sanjay were eye-opening.

When things do not work as per our desire, we should first try to ask ourselves 'have we made our efforts' before we start thinking like failures.

We should stay determined and never give up.

There is nothing like 'failure'.

How to Handle Situations

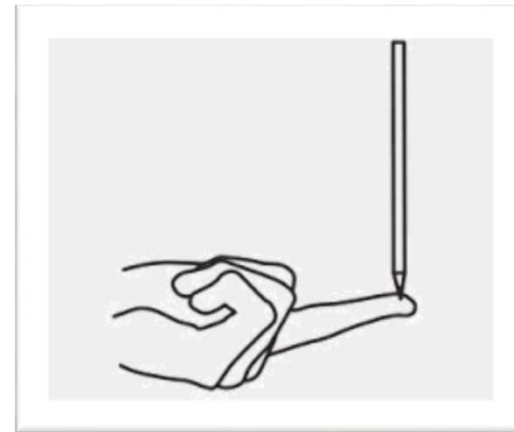
- Don't lose hope, if you don't get desired result, try again, and plan and improve.
- Don't avoid any difficult situation, face it and accept the challenge
- Don't be angry at every little thing, stay calm and enjoy whatever you have.

...Focus on improvement...

...Stay positive and don't let negative emotions in...

Reflection Activity

A fun activity where students may/may not be able to perform the activity successfully.



Invite one or two volunteer children from class and give them a task that they must try to complete, (such as balancing a pencil on their finger for 15 seconds.) *Make pairs and discuss with your partner any incident whether you could perform or not perform the activity successfully.*

TASKSHEET

Here are given some situations. Read them, think and write your action to face the situation.

SITUATION	YOUR ACTION
1. You prepared well but got less marks in a class test. The teacher has announced that there will be one more test on the same topic next week. Will you keep feeling bad about getting low marks or prepare with more dedication for the next test?	
2. You often get angry on your friends. They have started avoiding to talk to you. Who is at fault? What will you do so that your friends do not leave you?	
3. Your friend got selected for football and you were not. Do you feel you have lost it? Or would you try at cricket where you are strong, and, there is selection for the cricket team?	

Remember...

SOMETIMES YOU WIN,
SOMETIMES YOU LEARN.

