Lesson Plan
Title: It's Okay to Make Mistakes
Topic: Promoting a “growth mindset”
Grade: 1

Lesson Objectives:
• Teach students about taking risks
• Promote a positive outlook to learning
• Introduce the concept of a growth mindset
• Students understand that it is okay to make mistakes
• Students make connections to literary texts
• Students will write and express ideas with words and illustrations

Summary of tasks:
Introduction:
Read, Todd Parr’s picture book, “It's Okay to Make Mistakes”
Talk about the mistakes made by characters in the book
Students share when they have made a mistake and practice making
connections to literary texts

Using chart paper, the teacher draws a picture of themselves, and write about the
various times when mistakes were made at school such as:
I forgot to take attendance
I spelled a word incorrectly
I wore my shirt inside out to school
I called a student by the wrong name!

The students will see that their teacher makes mistakes and it is okay.

Show the short 6 minute video, “Soar”
[http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/video/Soar](http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/video/Soar)

Facilitate a discussion and ask the following questions:
What happens if you give up after you make a mistake?
What do you do when you are faced with a difficult task?
How do you feel if you make a mistake?

Shift the discussion, and ask the following questions:

What happens when you try something new?
What can you do?
Do you learn from your mistakes?
What can’t you do yet? What can you do to help you learn how to do that thing you
can’t do yet?
Encourage the students to just try! Say, “you just have to try!” It’s okay to make mistakes, have a growth mindset, face your challenges, and give it a go!” Have the students participate in a partner “walk and talk” Give students a chance to practice saying the above phrases to partners. Allow time for structured talk between partners.

Variation, if time allows: Have the students role play, one partner makes a mistake, the other partner encourages a growth mindset by using one of the above phrases. Then the partners switch.

Writing task:
In their workbooks, the students will write the things they can do on one side of their page and on the other side they students will write what they can’t do yet, but are determined to learn.

Conclusion:
Have the students share their writing with their classmates. Refer back to the language, “you just have to try, It’s okay to make mistakes, face your challenges, and give it a go!”

Materials:
Chart paper
Workbooks or paper
Pencils
The book, It’s Okay to Make Mistakes, By Todd Parr
Access to a computer, Internet, projector, screen, speakers, or smart board
Website: http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/video/Soar

Adaptations:
Students who struggle with written expression can use a speech to text application, so their ideas are expressed. A teacher can also scribe for students who struggle with written output. Students who have difficulty with expressive vocabulary might benefit from one to one conversation about the written task before written work. The written component of this lesson offers a chance to check in with students individually or in a small group setting.

References:
Soar Video:
http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/video/Soar

Teachers make mistakes lesson ideas:
http://thefirstgradeparade.blogspot.ca/2014/08/celebrating-mistakes.html