

Grass Roots  
Muddy BUts

12 top tips for encouraging your child to value failure and 8 examples of ways to speak positively to children about failure.



I hope you find them useful.

# Grass Roots Muddy Boots

1. Welcome failure as the vehicle that gets us to where we want to be.
2. Talking positively to our children about failure.
3. Find out what success looks like to them. Listen carefully, this isn't about your aspirations for them it's what they want to achieve.
4. View success as every attempt made.
5. Celebrate the small steps
6. Don't be afraid to use the word failure. Remember it is referring to the attempt not the child. "This attempt was a failure"
7. Talk to children about the times that you have failed and tried again as a normal process of learning.
8. Model putting yourself out there and having a go. Explain that this is a way to find out your true potential.
9. Don't be afraid of getting it wrong, be vulnerable, be human. I get it wrong all the time but I work with children and they are the most forgiving audience if you are honest with them.
10. PLAY there are no mistakes in play. Everyone's self esteem is maintained because it is pretend, trial and error, mistakes are not important only the learning from it.
11. Reward the journey not the destination. By rewarding the attempts with praise it gives the attempts value. When you only praise the final outcome it sends children the message that success is the only thing that matters and is valued.
- 12 Success lies in your child's ability to pick themselves up and start again and again.

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Here are a few useful things to say to your child to encourage them to value failure.

“brilliant you have achieved your next step”

“your power is growing every time you try again”

“You have more knowledge than you did before”

“this is another great step to success”

“your ability is growing”

“your knowledge is growing”

“your skill is growing”

“ I love the way you are trying different ways, this is what experts do”