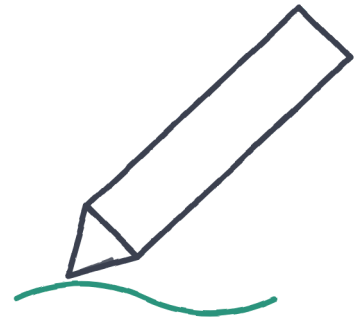


FACT SHEET • PRIMARY

Helping Your Child Learn From Mistakes

How a mistake is handled matters more than the mistake itself. A primary-aged child who is shouted at for spilling, breaking or forgetting learns to hide things rather than own up to them, while one who is walked through it learns that mistakes are simply part of trying. Here's how to make that the pattern at home, so honesty feels safer than hiding.



TIP 1

React calmly, every time

A big reaction to a small mistake teaches your child to hide the next one. Keep your response steady, whether it's a spilt drink or a forgotten homework book.

TIP 2

Separate the child from the act

"You forgot your kit" lands very differently from "you're so forgetful". Talk about what happened, not what it says about them, so the mistake stays a one-off rather than a label.

TIP 3

Ask what they'd do differently

Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, ask what they'd try next time. It moves the conversation from blame to a plan they came up with themselves.

TIP 4

Own up to your own mistakes

Let your child hear you say "I got that wrong" and see what you do next. It shows them that admitting a mistake doesn't mean anything terrible follows.

TIP 5

Praise the telling, not the mistake

When your child owns up to something before you find out, notice that first, even if the thing itself needs sorting out. It keeps honesty worth choosing.