

## Children's Books to Promote a Growth Mindset

### **Your Fantastic Elastic Brain**

This innovative and timely picture book teaches children that they have the ability to stretch and grow their own brains. It also delivers the crucial message that mistakes are an essential part of learning.

### **The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes**

Beatrice is a girl who never makes mistakes – not ever -- until one day she comes close to dropping a few eggs (a mistake), and thereafter her life is governed by the fear of one day actually making a mistake. Beatrice begins limiting her activities so she will never make a mistake. But Beatrice learns an important lesson about making mistakes after something unexpected happens at the school talent show.

### **Salt in His Shoes**

Michael feels the reason he isn't very good at basketball is because he's short. His mother suggests he put salt in his shoes and say a prayer to help him grow. But months go by and he still isn't any taller. Finally, while talking to his father, Michael learns that being taller isn't everything – it's practice, determination, and giving your best that will that really make the difference. And the rest of Michael Jordan's story is history.

### **What Do You Do With a Problem?**

A young boy has a hypothetical problem and doesn't know what to do with it. He's scared of his problem, tries to hide from it, and worries about his problem. Even though he's still afraid, the boy can't take it anymore one day and decides he must face his problem. He then discovers that his problem wasn't as bad as he had made it out to be and even provides something special ... opportunity.

### **What Do You Do With an Idea?**

From the same author of *What Do You Do with a Problem?* is a story of a boy with an idea. Despite having an idea and liking it, the boy brushes it aside and worries what other people will think of his idea. The idea sticks with him, however, and eventually the boy decides to share his idea with other people. Some people DO say it's not a good idea and won't become anything. The boy eventually realizes that these other people may not know what they're talking about. The story ends with an empowering resolution of what can come from the pursuit of good ideas.

### **Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin**

Hana Hashimoto has taken only three violin lessons, yet she still signed up for the local talent show. Her brothers think she's crazy since she's just a beginner, but Hana is determined...that is until just before her time to go on stage. Remembering advice from her grandfather – also a violinist – Hana performs her act and experiences her own form of success.

### **Nadia, the Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still**

This is the story of Nadia Comaneci, the famous women's gymnast who received seven perfect scores in the 1976 Olympic Games. While Nadia was always busy (couldn't sit still) and seemed to be a natural for gymnastics, her path to stardom wasn't without bumps along the way. When she was nine, Nadia fell three times on a beam at the National Junior Championships competition and came in thirteenth place. While disappointed, Nadia continued to practice to perfect her routines – and the rest is history.

### **Beautiful Oops**

Not all artwork is perfect, and, in fact, sometimes mistakes can turn into wonderful designs! *Beautiful Oops* is a fun, visually appealing book that shows the creative process isn't always perfect and making mistakes can turn out to be excellent opportunities. The companion book, *My Beautiful Oops*, is a hands-on journal that's sole purpose is to be torn up, folded, smudged, and otherwise artistically wrecked.

### **The OK Book**

This simply written book outlines a series of activities that the main character, a stick figure, is OK at – showing kids it's alright to be just OK at many things. The stick figure acknowledges that one day he'll grow up to be excellent at something, but he doesn't know what that is yet, and that, too, is OK.

### **Rosie Revere, Engineer**

Rosie has big dreams of becoming an engineer and spends most of her time tinkering and making machines. When the uncle she loves most giggles as she shows him a peculiar hat she made, Rosie begins to keep her dreams to herself. It's not until a great aunt comes to visit and tells Rosie about building airplanes that Rosie sees how failures can turn into opportunities.

### **The Dot**

Vashti feels she can't draw, so after art class, her piece of paper is still blank. With a little subtle encouragement from her teacher and a growing desire to improve, Vashti discovers that she can, in fact, draw and even comes to encourage another student to overcome his discouragement.

### **Ish**

Ramon loves to draw – anytime and anywhere. But one day his older brother Leon makes fun of Ramon's work and then all of a sudden drawing is no longer the joy it used to be. Fortunately, Ramon's little sister Marisol sees things differently and helps Ramon see that sometimes art is more than getting things "just right." This is a valuable tale for any child who questions his or her artistic ability.

### **How to Catch a Star**

A boy has a dream to catch a star. He tries everything he can to catch it– to jump up and grab it, to use a life preserver as a lasso. He then thinks of other possibilities like using a spaceship or getting a seagull to help. In the end, the boy's wish comes true in a somewhat unexpected way.

### **A Whistle for Willie**

In this classic tale, Willie is determined to whistle. It's not easy and takes a lot of practice, but Willie doesn't give up, ever. He tries and tries until suddenly – he's whistling!

### **Thanks for the Feedback, I think.**

This story follows a boy named RJ as he does the things he enjoys – blowing bubbles, playing soccer, and spending time with friends. When a few friends give him compliments, RJ isn't too sure how to respond. Later, he hears from his teacher and parents that there are a few things he needs to work on. In the end, RJ learns what it means to receive positive and negative feedback and how to give an appropriate response in each situation.