



MYSTERY BOX

Making mistakes is an unavoidable part of life. It's easy to refuse to try new things, or to guess when we don't know. It's much harder to try when you might fail and to admit when you are wrong. We have to learn!

Steps:



Have a box with a hole inside. Ask students what's inside the box. Let them feel it with their hands. You can't see it, smell it, taste it, but you can hear it and feel it. What is it? Each kid gets one guess. Call them up in random order (draw names out of a hat). Let them say "I don't know" if they want. The class wins together or loses together. If someone gets it right, everyone wins. A lot of kids will say "I don't know" because they're afraid to be wrong.

Talk about why they said "I don't know" instead of guessing. Did anyone know the right answer or was everyone guessing, even the person who got it right? What did it feel like to be asked a question you don't know the answer to?

Try again, but this time everybody HAS to guess. No more "I don't know"s.

Did you want to give up and say "I don't know"? Even if your guess was wrong, did it help the class get to the right answer? Maybe someone else thought the same thing as you and when they heard that you were wrong, that meant they got to use their guess on something else. Maybe you were wrong, and they learned from your mistake and got it right.



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Steps (part 2):

You are all working together for a solution.

In real life is it okay to not know things? ABSOLUTELY. Nobody on the planet knows everything, not even your teachers or your parents. It's okay to say you don't know. It's also okay to GUESS, as long as you tell the other person that it's only a guess and you're not sure.



What happens if you guess and it turns out you are wrong? How does that feel?

Should you yell at the person who tells you you're wrong that they're wrong and refuse to listen when they show you or tell you the truth?

When someone makes a guess and it's wrong should you yell at them or should you help them learn the right answer?

Can you learn if you don't listen?

Is it okay to be wrong?

Is it okay to insist you are right even when you are wrong?

A big part of learning new things is trying and FAILING. As long as you learn from your failure and never give up, it is 100% okay to guess and be wrong. As long as you aren't hurting anyone, it's 100% okay to try and fail. Just remember, when you fall down, when you are wrong, when you fail, DON'T GIVE UP! No one is perfect ever, but especially not on their first try at something. Keep going, keep trying, and keep learning!