


# MISTAKES ~~is~~ are



written *by*  
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For my students past, present, and future.  
May you always be brave, persevere,  
and know that we all learn from our mistakes.

To the unforgettable Luca, whose lessons transcended the  
classroom, teaching me as much as I imparted upon him.  
Your influence forever shapes my teaching journey.



ABOUT THIS BOOK:

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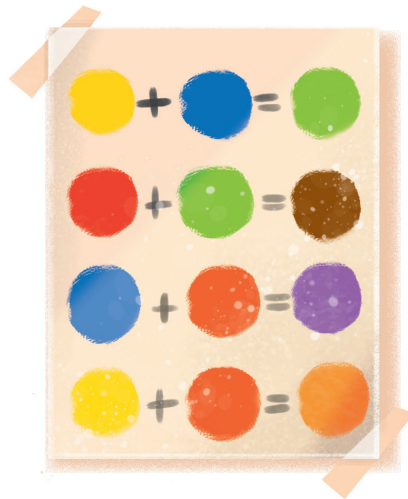
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## Dear Parents and Educators,

In the learning journey, mistakes are not roadblocks but stepping stones, unlocking a child’s potential and fostering growth. Supported by research from experts like Stanford math professor Dr. Jo Boaler and psychologist Dr. Carol Dweck, viewing errors as opportunities and having a growth mindset prove powerful.

Our brains are incredible machines capable of transformation that actively grow and change when people face challenges and make mistakes. Encouraging children to embrace mistakes and see errors as part of the learning process enhances confidence, risk-taking, and perseverance. As parents and educators, celebrating mistakes normalizes the learning process, creating an environment where children feel safe to explore and learn from errors.

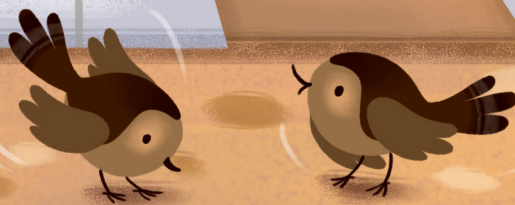
Let’s encourage our children to view mistakes as gifts, invaluable lessons paving the way for progress. Use this language—“Mistakes are Gifts!”—at home and in the classroom. Applauding their efforts and courage will foster generations of lifelong learners ready to conquer any obstacle they may face.

Warmest regards,

—Maria Cedolini Thompson



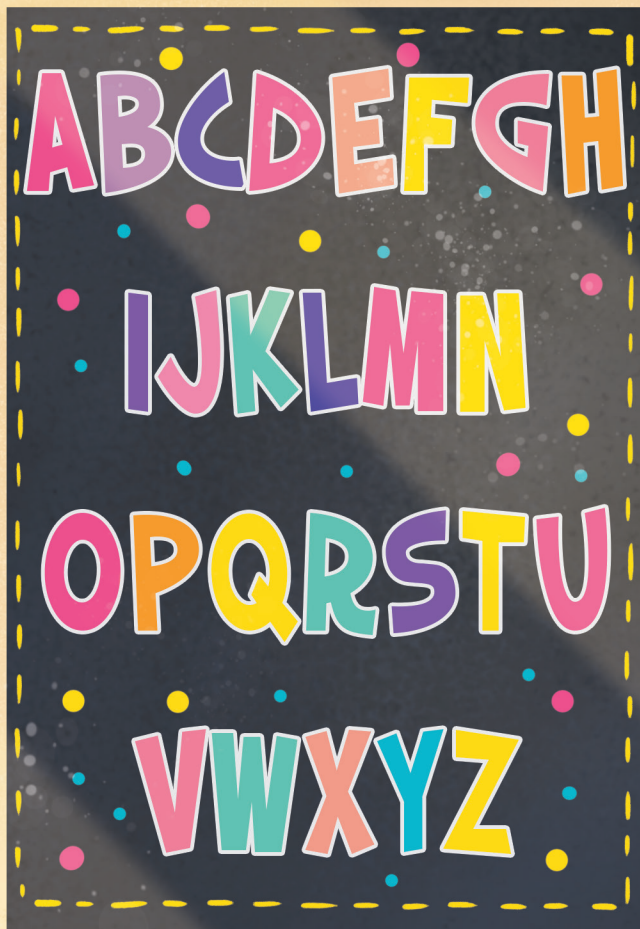
In a world so full of laughter  
where **good** friendships can be made  
a boy of six whose name was Luca  
couldn't help but be **afraid**.



He wore a knapsack on his back  
and **clutched** a lunchbox in his hand.  
A brand-new **student** in the school,  
he wasn't sure just where he'd **stand**.



Still, Luca planned  
to make **new** friends.  
A helpful teacher he **desired**.  
Would he answer questions well?  
His **brain** already felt so tired!



But great excitement  
**sparked** within him.

An adventure was in sight!  
So, when he **walked** into the classroom,  
he had hopes of shining **bright**.



Since his *old* school was so different,  
what a **change** it all would be!  
And that's why Luca felt so tiny,  
like a **herring** in the sea.





“Hello, I’m **Luca**, and I’m new here,”  
was the first thing that he said.  
The teacher **welcomed** him so kindly,  
he was far from feeling **dread**.

