

When It Is Tricky: Pause, Try, Change Strategy

Develop flexible persistence: effort plus strategy, help-seeking and sensible stopping points.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Develop flexible persistence: effort plus strategy, help-seeking and sensible stopping points.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 persistence is not endless struggle

2 changing strategy is part of learning

3 asking for help is a strategy

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Sort reactions into helpful/unhelpful when stuck.

Name three strategies: draw it, use objects, reread, ask, take a short break.

Practise a self-talk sentence that focuses on next steps.

Decide when a task should be paused because the learner is tired/frustrated.

Reflect on a time a new strategy helped.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Try one activity in real life with a trusted adult or teacher and discuss what worked.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a “strategy toolbox” card with five tools for getting unstuck.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What did you learn about yourself or your strategy?

2. Who can support you with this skill?

3. What is one small next step?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “When It Is Tricky: Pause, Try, Change Strategy”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

Reflective responses vary; look for a specific example.

2. Suggested response

A trusted adult/teacher/family member may be named without private details.

3. Suggested response

The next step should be small and achievable.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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