

Try Again Towers - Levels F-3

PLAY

To develop the life skill of resilience by building towers that might fall and learning to enjoy the process of trying again. Uranus teaches us that even when things look different or go in a surprising direction, we can always adjust, keep going, and grow stronger.



Learning Intentions

Students will learn to try again when something doesn't work the first time. This builds perseverance and a growth mindset.

Students will practise staying calm and positive when things don't go to plan. This supports emotional regulation and confidence.

Students will learn to work with others to keep trying and have fun together. This encourages teamwork and positive risk-taking.



Success Criteria

I can build a tower, even if it falls over.
This supports resilience and problem-solving.



I can smile and try again with support.
This builds emotional awareness and persistence.

I can celebrate effort, not just success.
This promotes self-belief and positive self-talk.



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Objective:

To develop the life skill of resilience by building towers that might fall and learning to enjoy the process of trying again. Uranus teaches us that even when things look different or go in a surprising direction, we can always adjust, keep going, and grow stronger.

Players:

Ideal for 2–26 students working in pairs or small groups.

Materials:

- Building materials such as plastic cups, blocks, LEGO®, dice, wooden Jenga pieces, or recycled items (e.g., cardboard tubes, lids, straws)
- Flat surface for building
- Optional: timer or challenge cards (e.g., “build a tower with 5 pieces”)

Time Required:

10–15 minutes

Setup:

Start by reading the Uranus page from *The Playful Astronauts*. Talk with students about:

- “What does resilience mean?”
- “How do you feel when something doesn’t work?”
- “Why is it important to keep trying?”

Introduce the activity by showing building materials and letting students know it’s okay and expected for their towers to fall. The key is to smile, breathe, and rebuild.

Gameplay:

Step 1 – Build Together:

In small groups or pairs, students are given building materials. Their task: build the tallest or strongest tower they can. But here’s the twist: if it falls, they must smile, breathe deeply, and try again.

You can say:

- “Oops! Let’s take a breath and try again.”
- “That’s part of learning, and we’re just getting better each time!”
- “Look at Uranus; it spins differently, and that makes it strong and special.”



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Step 2 – Celebrate the Try:

After several rounds, bring the group together to celebrate:

- “Who tried again even when it was tricky?”
- “What did you learn about building and about yourself?”

Encourage students to share what helped them stay positive or how they felt when they kept going.

Winning the Game:

There's no winner. Every student who tries again is successful. Resilience is about the bounce, not the result. Uranus teaches us that every setback is just a new way to stand back up.

Variations:

Timed Challenge:

Set short build-and-rebuild rounds (e.g. “You have 45 seconds to make your tallest tower!”). After each round, pause to reflect and cheer before starting again.

Themed Towers:

Challenge students to build “Space Towers,” “Kindness Castles,” or “Confidence Constructions.” Encourage storytelling around their creations.

Silent Tower Challenge:

Teams must build without speaking for one minute, encouraging non-verbal communication and patience.

Whole-Class Collaboration:

Instead of working in small groups, the class builds one giant “Resilience Tower.” When it falls, the whole class takes a deep breath together and rebuilds it stronger.

Mindful Rebuild:

Each time a tower falls, students take one deep breath and say something encouraging out loud:

“I can do hard things.”

“I’ll try again.”

“Every fall makes me stronger.”



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For Wheelchair Users / Accessibility:

- Ensure building materials are light, large, and within reach (e.g. stacking foam blocks or large plastic cups).
- Provide table space at appropriate height for wheelchair users.
- Allow students to build on trays, mats, or platforms closer to their reach zone.
- For those with limited hand mobility, offer magnetic or Velcro-based stacking pieces that attach easily.
- Encourage teamwork, a partner can assist with physical stacking while the student directs the design (“Let’s put the big block on the bottom!”).

Notes for Inclusion:

- Reinforce the idea that mistakes are *expected and celebrated*.
- Model failure yourself, purposely knock over a tower and say something positive like,
 - “Oops! That gives me another chance to make it even better!”
 - Use affirmations throughout:
 - “You kept trying, that’s real strength.”
 - “You smiled and stayed calm, that’s resilience.”
 - “Look how your teamwork made the tower stronger.”
 - For students who may become upset easily, remind them that *falling towers are part of the fun!*
 - Offer calm breathing breaks or a quiet “reset” space if needed.
 - End with a group reflection and affirmation:
 - “Every time we try again, we grow stronger, just like Uranus spinning proudly in its own way.”

Additional Notes:

“Try Again Towers” creates a safe, fun space for failure and recovery. It helps students learn that getting it wrong is part of getting it right. Like Uranus, which spins on a unique axis, students discover that doing things differently, and not giving up, is what makes them resilient, brave, and strong.

