



sesameworkshop.
The nonprofit educational organization
behind Sesame Street and so much more



Sesame Family Newsletter

August 21, 2008

We All Make Mistakes

by Jordan D. Brown

Encouraging kids to accept their gofs, uh, I mean, goofs.

[Click to continue...](#)

Featuring:

All Juiced Up and Ready to Go!

Laughing at Our Uh-ohs
Not Letting it Slide



Games and More Rhyme Time!

- [Jumping Rhymes](#)
Abby and Zoe teach Rosita to jump and rhyme.
- [The Nick of Rhyme](#)
It's Super rhyme time with Grover.
- [Make Time to Rhyme](#)
Rhyme with Elmo & Hoots!
- [Weekly Trivia](#)



CollegeSavings
FOUNDATION

Tell the College Savings Foundation -- a nonprofit working to help American families achieve their college savings goals -- your hopes, plans, and concerns about saving for college. Please [click here](#) to take an anonymous ten-minute survey that will help the foundation better understand the issues facing parents like you, and will increase awareness about the importance of saving for college.

[Take the Survey](#)

Discover Sesame Playlists



Take your child on a fun-filled learning adventure!

Sesame Playlists are a collection of games and videos that we have carefully selected to provide your child with just the right mix of entertainment and education.

Each weekday, a member of the Sesame Street Muppet family presents a featured playlist with content grouped around an

educational theme, such as "The Color Orange Day" or "Jumping Rhymes Day." A playlist includes seven games or videos; some are all videos, others are all games, and some are a combination of the two.

Sesame Playlists are great interactive learning experiences -- and loads of fun.

[Go Play!](#)



PNC: A Proud Sponsor of Sesame Street

PNC recognizes that learning in a child's early years is essential for his or her long-term success. Through PNC Grow Up Great, we provide the leadership,

advocacy, funding tools, and volunteers to help educate parents, caregivers, and communities on how to prepare young children for school and for life. So that an entire generation won't just grow up... but grow up great! [Learn more](http://sesameworkshop.org/readyforschool) at sesameworkshop.org/readyforschool

ALL JUICED UP AND READY TO GO!

I don't mean to boast but, as a parent, I have NEVER made any mistakes. Ever. Just kidding! I make mistakes all the time -- from tiny mess-ups to modest snafus to class-A blunders. Mistakes are a fact of life, and I do all I can to not let my kids get bent out of shape about them. Bouncing back is an important life skill that takes many years for children and grownups to learn.

Yesterday morning, I glanced over at the kitchen table where my 3-year-old daughter Olivia was laughing and playing with her older brother Finn. Seeing how well they were getting along, I thought to myself, "Aren't they adorable?" I didn't even mind that the source of their laughter was silly jokes about my being a "poopy head." As I packed up their lunches and swimming gear for camp, I noticed that they had barely eaten their breakfasts. A quick glance at the clock confirmed that we were running late. Grrrrr!

"Hey, guys. Let's hurry! Eat up!" I urged.

Finn took my request as a cue to eat his breakfast at a comically fast speed. He said, "C'mon Olivia! We have to eat FAST!" With his hands a blur, he chopped up his pancakes at lightning speed, shoveled little bites into his mouth, and then sipped his milk.

Olivia laughed and of course, tried to imitate his moves. Unfortunately, while Olivia shared his enthusiasm and sense of humor, she didn't quite have his dexterity. In seconds, her cup of very-berry juice was "very" all-over the front of her clean white shirt. In my haste, I had neglected to attach a snap-on cover to her juice cup. I figured, at age three and a half, Olivia could handle sipping juice "the big girl way." I figured wrong.

Momentarily frustrated, I knew that dwelling on the accident would only make us even later. I picked up Olivia, and took her to her bedroom to change into another outfit. As I slipped off her stained shirt, Olivia said to me, "It's all right, Daddy. Accidents happen, right?"

"You know it, honey," I said, giving her a tight hug. "You know it."

As we dashed for the car, I noticed my coffee mug sitting on the counter. In the rush to get ready, I hadn't drunk one drop. Eager for a caffeine jolt, I took a quick swig on my way out the door.

Yes, that's right. I dribbled much of the coffee on my white shirt.

Like father, like daughter...



[THE KLUTZY SPIDER](#)

Enjoy this silly video clip about a spider that makes mistakes while spinning a web.

LAUGHING AT OUR UH-OHS

On the drive to camp, I joked to the kids about how I too had spilled on my shirt. I emphasized how laughing about own little mistakes is a good way to handle small mishaps. By not trying to hide or be ashamed of my slip-ups, I am hoping to set a good example. If one of my kids breaks something in our house (okay, WHEN, they do it), I want them to feel comfortable with telling me the truth. I want my children to know that I love them much more than any possessions. I want them to get the message: People are more important than things.

I recently read a great story in the best-selling book *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. The author had just bought a brand-new convertible, and was showing it off to his niece and nephew. His sister warned the kids, "Be careful in Uncle Randy's new car...Don't



[ACCIDENTS HAPPEN](#)

Watch a video clip about telling the truth when you make a mistake.

[HEALTHY FOR LIFE](#)

Nurturing your child's growing body and mind.

mess up anything. Don't get it dirty." Knowing that the car would eventually get dirty, the author did something surprising. He opened a can of soda and deliberately poured it on the car's cloth seats. Everyone was shocked. Then they laughed. They understood what he was doing. Later that weekend, one of the kids came down with the flu and threw up all over the backseat. The child was relieved because his uncle had made it clear that sometimes accidents happen, and when they do, you have to accept them with a sense of humor.

NOT LETTING IT SLIDE

As a boy, one of my favorite *Sesame Street* songs was Big Bird's "Everyone Makes Mistakes, So Why Can't You?" written by Jeff Moss. The song reminded me that even when things don't go as planned, my friends and family love me anyway.

Last weekend, I was impressed with how Olivia handled a small mistake. While Finn was out with my wife Ellen for the morning, Olivia wandered over to Finn's box of "special toys." She asked me if it was okay to play with Finn's new slide whistle. He had gotten the whistle as a special reward at camp for good behavior. While normally I encourage my kids to ask permission before borrowing someone else's toy, this time, I figured we could tell Finn after the fact.

Olivia was having a marvelous time playing with the toy, when suddenly I heard "oops!" Olivia held up the slide whistle -- now in two parts. At first, she said, "See, it still works!" And it kind of did. But it was clearly broken beyond repair. Olivia said, "Let's not tell Finn!" I didn't say anything at the time because I was hoping to avert a tantrum. I figured we'd deal with it when Ellen and Finn were home.

But, as soon as they came through the door, the first words out of Olivia's mouth were, "I accidentally broke your slide whistle, Finn! Sorry!" Finn started to get mad, but then looked at Olivia's face, saw that she was upset by what had happened, and gave her a hug. "It's okay. I love you, Olivia."

Both of my children's actions floored me. Olivia understood that what she'd done was wrong, and she wanted to tell Finn about it before he found out on his own. After years of making his own mistakes, and being told, "accidents happen," Finn realized that the most important thing was to reassure his sister that he loved her -- no matter what.

Good luck encouraging your children to learn from and laugh at their mistakes.

Jordan Brown
Sesame Workshop



[NOODLES & NEDD: AIRPLANE FUN](#)

Watch this video clip about a model airplane that accidentally gets broken.

[THE AMAZING MUMFORD: RABBITS](#)

Enjoy this video clip of the Amazing Mumford trying to perform a magic trick, but Grover keeps interrupting.

WEEKLY TRIVIA

How many pairs of eyes does Sesame Workshop use for their Muppets each season?

- A. 100
- B. 113
- C. 194
- D. 219

Pencils down! The answer is D. 219 pairs per season. That's a lot of eyes on you!

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP



Sesame Workshop is a nonprofit educational organization making a meaningful difference in children's lives around the world. Founded in 1968, the Workshop changed television forever with the legendary *Sesame Street*. Today, the Workshop continues to innovate on behalf of children in 120 countries, using its proprietary research methodology to ensure its programs and products are engaging and

enriching. Sesame Workshop is behind award-winning programs like *Dragon Tales* and *Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat, Pinky Dinky Doo* and ground breaking multimedia productions in South Africa, Egypt and Russia. As a nonprofit, Sesame Workshop puts the proceeds it receives from sales of *Sesame Street, Dragon Tales* and *Sagwa* products right back into its educational projects for children around the world. Find the Workshop online at www.sesameworkshop.org.

[Support Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)



Sesame Workshop | 1 Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023 | 212-875-6119

To prevent mailbox filters from deleting mailings from Sesame Family Newsletter, add sesamefamily@sesameonline.org to your address book.

[Unsubscribe from this mailing.](#)