

# GROWTH MINDSET PROBLEM SOLVING

## FIND YOUR SILVER LINING

Developing the ability to approach a difficult situation with a positive outlook is key to developing a Growth Mindset.

Constructive optimism is the ability to recognise that you have to take steps to make a difference. 'Finding the silver lining' doesn't come automatically for most people, it takes a little work and perseverance. You might think that you're too set in your ways to change, but the good news is that our brains are malleable and our reactions can be adjusted. Use these prompts to help you consider a more Growth Mindset thinking process, then try the reflective exercises overleaf in your journal.

### CONSIDER PROBLEMS A CHALLENGE

If something crops up where you feel out of your depth, perspective is everything.

Being able to see 'finding the solution' as an opportunity to learn makes the problem feel much less like a burden and more like an opportunity for growth.

### REMEMBER YOUR PRIOR SUCCESS

When we get bogged down by a situation, we forget just how capable we are.

Finding a silver lining is made easier by remembering past successes. This helps build up your confidence and resilience for when it's needed.

### WATCH OUT FOR 'WHAT IF'S'

When we always think about what might have happened, we can become weighted with regret as we rake over where we think we've gone wrong.

This solves nothing as we can't change the past. Instead of 'what ifs', try to reflect upon what you might do now to make things better.

### QUESTION YOUR THINKING

It's easy to fall into the trap of believing your own initial thoughts no matter how unrealistic or unfounded. Taking time to examine our thinking helps wrong assumptions lose their power.

## **BE GRATEFUL**

When facing challenges, appreciating the good things in life has a way of putting things into a more manageable perspective.

## **FIND THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

If you are looking toward the future, and are not excited about much, then it's time to find something to look forward to. Looking forward to something meaningful can give you just the boost you need when things are tough.

## **BE FORGIVING EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD**

When a person is preoccupied with feelings of anger or resentment towards others, they are less open to experiencing optimism and finding positives.

## **MODEL POSITIVE PROBLEM SOLVING**

Given that optimism is learned, try to show children how to see the good side of things.

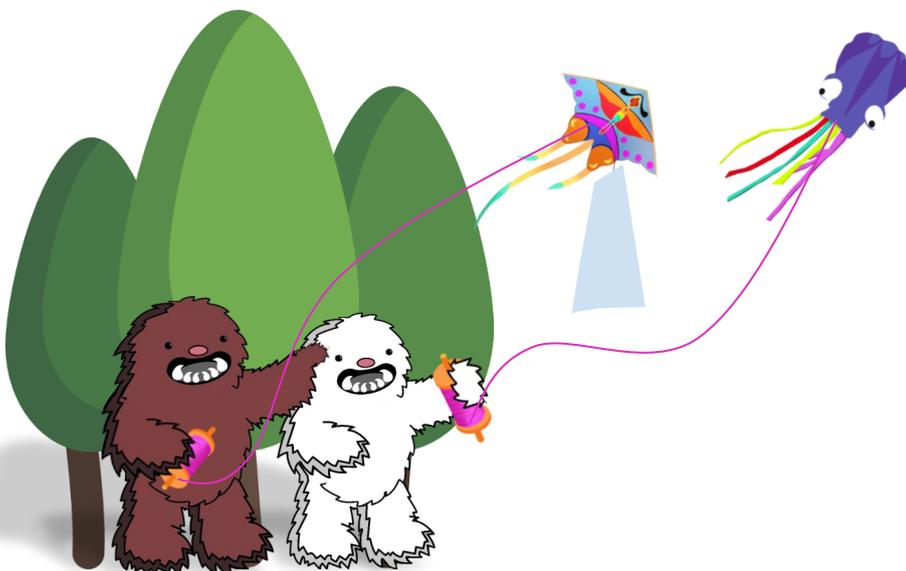
By modelling this response, you better equip kids with important coping tools and train your own thinking in the process.

## **BEWARE OF SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES**

Be wary of the story you tell yourself, as you may find yourself acting it out!

## **GET OUT OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF BED**

Set up your brain to be positive for the day by identifying three things you're grateful for from the day before things from the day before you get out from under the covers.



**Additional printable  
reflective and reactive  
resources can be  
found on your online  
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