

Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of persistence and how to keep trying even when things are difficult through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence"
- The song "Ollie the Owl Keeps Trying:"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1- Role-Play with Puppets (Ollie, Benny and Harriet)
- Activity 2- Persistence Star Worksheet
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about what it means to keep trying even when things are hard.
- Introduce the concept of persistence and explain how it helps us achieve our goals.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - "Good morning, everyone! Let's all gather around in our circle. Today, we're going to talk about something very important. Have any of you ever tried to do something that felt really hard at first, like tying your shoes or riding a bike? How did it feel to keep trying?"
 - (Allow children to share their thoughts and gently encourage anyone who may feel hesitant to participate.)

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story *Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence* aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions during key parts of the story

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. “Those are great examples! Today, we’re going to talk about *persistence*. Persistence means not giving up, even when things are hard. When we keep trying, we get closer and closer to achieving our goals. We’ll read a story about our friend, Ollie the Owl, and how he learned to be persistent.”
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

• Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:

- **While reading**, pause during key moments.
- **Ask Questions:**
 - What did Ollie the Owl dream of doing?
 - What happened the first time Ollie tried to fly?
 - How did Ollie feel after he fell?
 - Who encouraged Ollie to keep trying?
 - What does Grandma Owl say “persistence” means?
 - What did Ollie do after talking to Grandma Owl?
 - Which friend said learning to climb a tree took time?
 - What did Harriet the Hare have to keep trying to learn?
 - Did Ollie finally learn to fly? How do you know?
 - How did Ollie feel at the end of the story?

Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence

In a forest green and wide,
Lived Ollie the Owl, with wings spread wide.
He dreamed of flying high in the sky,
But learning was tough, he wondered why.

One morning bright, with the sun so high,
Ollie decided he'd give it a try.
He flapped his wings and gave a leap,
But down he went, in a tumble heap.

Ollie felt sad, his heart sank low,
He thought, "I'll never learn to go."
But Grandma Owl, so wise and kind,
Said, "Keep trying, dear, you'll find your mind."

"Persistence means you stick to it,
Even when you want to quit.
Try and try, again and again,
Soon you'll fly with the wind, my friend."

Ollie nodded, determined and strong,
He knew that Grandma couldn't be wrong.
He climbed up high on the old oak tree,
And flapped his wings, feeling free.
He tried once more, and then again,
Falling and tumbling, but never in vain.
With each new try, he learned a bit,
And his courage grew, bit by bit.

His friend Benny the Bear came by,
"Don't give up, Ollie, you can fly!
I remember learning to climb a tree,
It took some time, but look at me!"

Next came Harriet the Hare, so quick,
"Hopping high was quite a trick.
But I kept trying, day and night,

Now I hop to my heart's delight."

Ollie felt his spirits lift,
His heart was strong, his wings a gift.
He tried again, with all his might,
Flapping his wings, he took to flight.

Up he soared, above the trees,
Feeling the wind, the gentle breeze.
He flew and flew, with a joyful cry,
Ollie the Owl was in the sky!

He circled round, then landed light,
His heart was full, his eyes so bright.
He'd learned that trying, again and again,
Leads to success and a happy end.

Grandma Owl smiled with pride,
"You did it, Ollie, you really tried.
Persistence is the key, you see,
To achieve your dreams, to be truly free."

Ollie hugged his Grandma tight,
Feeling proud and full of might.
He knew that with persistence, strong and true,
He could do anything he wanted to.

So remember Ollie's tale so sweet,
When you face a challenge, don't accept defeat.
Keep trying, trying, with all your might,
And you'll find success, shining bright.

3. Post-Chapter Teacher Script

- “So, what did Ollie teach us? He showed us that when we keep trying, we get closer to our goals. Sometimes, we might feel like giving up, but persistence can help us achieve things we didn’t think were possible!”

4. Post-Chapter Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the chapter and connect it to their own experiences:

- Why do you think Ollie wanted to learn to fly so much?
- Have you ever tried something that was hard, like Ollie?
- What helped Ollie keep going, even when he fell?
- How do you think Ollie felt when he finally flew?
- What would have happened if Ollie had given up?
- Why do you think Grandma Owl's words were helpful?
- What does “persistence” mean to you?
- Can you think of something you’re learning right now that takes time and practice?
- How do friends like Benny and Harriet help Ollie stay strong?
- What will you remember about Ollie’s story the next time you try something new?

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the *Ollie the Owl Keeps Trying* song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a song all about persistence and not giving up! We’ll do some actions together to help us remember that persistence is like Ollie trying to fly again and again.”

“*Ollie the Owl Keeps Trying*”

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the Owl up in the night
Trying to learn how to take flight
Flap those wings, they seem so tight
He keeps on trying with all his might

Flap arms

[Verse 2]

First, he fell once then fell again
But Ollie the Owl, he won't complain
He gets back u,p head held up high
Determined to reach the sky

Fall to the ground

Get back up

[Chorus]

Flap flap flap don't give up now
Ollie the Owl, you know just how
Fly, fly, fly you'll find a way
Keep on trying every day

Flap arms

Pump fists and nod

[Verse]

Bunnies hop and squirrels play
Ollie's learning day by day
Parents cheer, and friends all say
Keep it up you'll soar one day

Hop

Stretch arms out wid

[Bridge]

Stars above, they start to gleam
Ollie's eyes they seem to beam
Dreams so big, not just a dream
Stick-to-itiveness! That's the theme

Look up and point

[Chorus]

Flap flap flap don't give up now
Ollie the Owl, you know just how
Fly, fly, fly you'll find a way
Keep on trying every day

Flap arms

Pump fists and nod

Song Wrap-up

“Great job singing and moving along with the song! Remember, just like Ollie, if we keep trying, we get stronger and better every day!”

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice showing persistence.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:



Activity 1: Role-Play with Puppets (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

“Now, let’s practice being persistent by using some puppets! We have Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, and Harriet the Hare here with us. We’ll act out some situations where each friend has to keep trying, even when it feels hard.”

Activity Instructions

- Use the owl, bear, and hare puppets to act out different scenarios where Ollie and his friends show persistence.
- Let the children take turns using the puppets to practice encouraging each other to keep trying.

Role-Playing Scenarios

Ollie tries to learn to fly

- **Teacher:** “What words can Benny and Harriet use to encourage Ollie when he feels like giving up?”

Benny the Bear tries to climb a tree

- **Teacher:** “Let’s pretend Benny is trying to climb a tall tree. How can Ollie and Harriet help Benny feel brave enough to keep trying?”

Harriet the Hare learns to hop higher

- **Teacher:** “Harriet wants to jump as high as possible, but it’s hard! How can Ollie and Benny cheer her on?”

Wrapping it Up

“You all did a fantastic job encouraging each other to keep going! Remember, when things are hard, we can always find friends who help us stay motivated.”

Activity 2: Persistence Stars craft (15 minutes)



1. Introduce Activity

“Now we’re going to make something special called *Persistence Stars*! These stars are a reminder to keep trying, just like Ollie did.”

Activity Instructions

1. **Distribute Materials:** Hand out Persistence Star Worksheet, crayons, markers, stickers, and other decorations to each child.
2. **Explain:**
“On your star, you can draw or write about something you want to get better at. Maybe it’s learning to hop like Harriet, or being able to climb like Benny, or even learning to ride a bike!”

3. **Decorate:**

“Use the crayons, stickers, and markers to decorate your star with bright colors and designs that remind you of persistence and trying again.”

4. **Optional Sharing:**

“Would anyone like to share what they put on their star and what they want to keep trying?”

“These stars look wonderful! Every time you see your Persistence Star, let it remind you to keep trying, just like Ollie. Persistence helps us grow stronger and smarter!”

Wrapping it Up

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about persistence and how Ollie kept trying until he succeeded.
- Ask a few children to share their "Persistence Stars" and explain what they will keep trying to do.

Review and Reflection Teacher Script



1. **Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**

- “Let’s come back to our circle one more time. Today, we learned about persistence and why it’s so important not to give up, even when things are tough. Can anyone share what they’ll keep trying to do?”

2. **Closing**

- “Remember, if we keep trying, we get closer to our goals each time. And just like Ollie, we can do anything if we don’t give up!”

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- “Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home that explains what we learned today in class.”
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Include the story summary, the importance of persistence, and how parents can reinforce these concepts at home.

Dear Families,

Today in class, we learned about persistence through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns Persistence." This story teaches children the importance of keeping on trying, even when things are difficult.

Here's what we learned:

- Persistence – Understanding that we should keep trying even when things are tough.
- Encouragement – Recognizing that friends and family can help us stay motivated.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making "Persistence Stars." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about what they are trying to get better at and how they can keep practicing.

Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,



Persistence Star

