

Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Brave

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of bravery, understanding that feeling afraid is normal and that being brave means facing fears and trying new things.

Materials Needed:



- The story “*Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Brave*”
- The song “*Ollie the Brave Owl*”
- Ollie’s Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1-Puppet Role-play
- Activity 2- Bravery Badge worksheet
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Begin with a brief discussion about bravery

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - “Good morning, everyone! Please come and join me in our circle. I am so happy to see all your bright faces today. Today, we are going to talk about something really important—*being brave!* Can anyone tell me what it means to be brave?”
 - (Allow children to share their thoughts and gently encourage anyone who may feel hesitant to participate.)
- **Discussion Starter**
 - “That’s right! Being brave doesn’t mean we’re not scared—it means we try something new or do something hard *even if* we feel afraid. We all feel scared sometimes. Maybe you were scared the first time you rode a bike or tried a new food. But when we face our fears, we grow stronger.”

“Has anyone ever felt a little scared but tried something anyway? How did that feel afterward?”

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



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

Story Time Teacher Script:

Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. "Well done! Today, we'll read a story about Ollie the Owl and how he learns to be brave. Are you ready to find out what happens?"
 - 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 does Ollie the Owl love to do?
 - How did Ollie feel when his friends climbed the tall tree?
 - What did Benny Bear say to Ollie from the tree?
 - What did Grandma Owl say about being brave?
 - What did Ollie do after he remembered Grandma's words?
 - Did Ollie's friends cheer for him after he climbed the tree?
 - What did Ollie see the next day?
 - How did Ollie feel about stepping into the stream?
 - Who invited Ollie to sing under the moonlight?
 - What did Ollie do before he hooted his song?

Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Brave

In a forest tall and green,
Lived Ollie the Owl, with eyes so keen.
He loved to hoot and fly so high,
But sometimes fear would make him sigh.

One day, Ollie saw a tree,
With branches tall as tall could be.
His friends climbed up, with laughs so bright,
But Ollie stayed on the ground in fright.

"Come on, Ollie," called Benny Bear,
"Climb up high and join us there!"
Ollie felt his feathers shake,
He wasn't sure the climb he'd make.

He thought of Grandma's wise old say,
"Being brave means feeling afraid, and
doing it anyway."
With a deep breath and a heart so true,
Ollie decided what he would do.

He flapped his wings and started to rise,
Up to the branch that touched the skies.
He felt afraid, but climbed up high,
With friends beside him, he reached the sky.

His friends all cheered, "You did it, Ollie!
You were so brave, now let's be jolly!"
Ollie felt proud, his heart aglow,
Being brave had helped him grow.

Next day, Ollie saw a stream,
So wide and deep, like in a dream.
His friends splashed in, with joyful cries,
But Ollie hesitated, unsure he'd try.

"Come on, Ollie," called Harriet Hare,
"The water's fine, with bubbles to spare!"
Ollie felt his feathers quake,
But knew a brave choice he must make.

With a deep breath and a hopeful heart,
He took a step, ready to start.
Into the water, cool and clear,
He felt his worries disappear.

His friends all cheered, "You did it, Ollie!
You were so brave, now let's be jolly!"
Ollie felt proud, his heart so light,
Being brave had made things right.

One evening, Ollie saw the moon,
Shining bright like a silver spoon.
His friends all hooted a nighttime song,
But Ollie felt he'd get it wrong.

"Come on, Ollie," called Buzz the Bee,
"Sing with us, in harmony!"
Ollie felt his feathers shake,
But knew a brave choice he must make.

With a deep breath and a song so true,
He hooted loud, the night sky blue.
His friends all cheered, "You did it, Ollie!
You were so brave, now let's be jolly!"

Ollie felt proud, his heart so free,
Being brave had let him see.
That feeling afraid was just a part,
Of learning new things and growing his heart.

So remember, Ollie, wise and bright,
Who learned to be brave with all his might.
When you feel scared, take a deep breath too.
And you'll find the courage inside of you.

Ollie the Owl, with friends so dear,
Learned to be brave, year after year.
With each new challenge, he'd always try,
Knowing bravery helped him fly high.

- **Post-Chapter Teacher Script**
- “Today, we learned that being brave doesn’t mean you’re not scared—it means you try your best even when you are. Ollie showed us that with deep breaths, kind friends, and a strong heart, we can all do brave things. Remember, courage grows every time we try!”

4. Post-Chapter Questions

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

- What does it mean to be brave?
- Can you feel scared and still be brave?
- What helped Ollie make brave choices?
- How did Ollie feel after he did something brave?
- Why did Ollie feel nervous about climbing the tree?
- What happened when Ollie stepped into the water?
- What brave thing did Ollie do during the nighttime song?
- How did Ollie’s friends help him feel better?
- Can you think of a time *you* were brave?
- What could you do the next time you feel afraid?

Sing the Song (10 minutes)

- Teach the children the *Ollie the Brave Owl* song



- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a fun song about bravery and trying new things. Remember, just like Ollie, we can all be brave in small ways every day.”

“Ollie the Brave Owl”

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the owl so shy
Under the moonlit sky
Afraid of the dark night
Wants to learn to take flight

Cover eyes with hands
Point to the sky

Flap hands

[Verse 2]

In the forest so deep
Where the critters all sleep
Ollie flaps his wings slow
Trying to make them grow,

Palms together, alongside cheek
Flap hands
Reach hands up high

[Chorus]

Ollie the brave owl
Learning how to howl
Facing fears tonight
Taking off in flight

Flex arms
Cup hands around mouth
Hands on hips
Flap hands

[Verse 3]

Friends all gather around
Cheering without a sound
Fireflies light the way,
Turning night into day

Link arms with neighbors
Fist pump to sky
Wiggle fingers
Arm sweep across sky

[Verse 4]

Wings spread wide and strong
Ollie sings his own song
Bravery in his heart,
Ready to make a start

Stretch arms out like wings
Cup hands around mouth
Hand over heart

[Chorus]

Ollie the brave owl
Learning how to howl
Facing fears tonight
Taking off in flight

Flex arms
Cup hands around mouth
Hands on hips
Flap hands

Song Wrap-up

"Great job, everyone! I saw lots of strong, brave moves. Just like Ollie, every time we try something new, we build our bravery muscles!"

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice encouraging themselves and others to be brave, even if they are a bit fearful.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:



Activity 1: Puppet Role-play (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

"Next, we are going to practice being brave with some fun role-playing. I have puppets here—Ollie, Benny the Bear, Harriet the Hare, and Buzz the Bee—and we'll act out some situations where they need to be brave."

"Role-playing means we pretend to be someone else, like a puppet friend, and act out what they might do or say. We'll help our friends be brave in different situations."

Activity Instructions

Model the First Scenario

Scenario: Ollie is scared to fly to the top of a tall tree.

- Use a puppet to show Ollie hesitating.
- Use Benny the Bear puppet to encourage him.

Teacher Prompt:

"How can Benny help Ollie feel brave? What words can Benny say to Ollie to encourage him?"

Let 1–2 children use the puppets to act it out.
Guide them if they need help (“Maybe Benny could say, ‘You can do it, Ollie! I believe in you!’”).

Invite Children to Try the Second Scenario

Scenario: Buzz the Bee is nervous to fly to a new flower field.

- Use a puppet to show Buzz fluttering nervously.
- Let children decide what Ollie might say to help.

Teacher Prompt:

“What can Ollie say to help Buzz try something new?”

Encourage children to use words like “It’s okay to be scared,” or “You might really like it once you try!”

Act Out the Third Scenario Together

Scenario: Harriet the Hare wants to jump across a tiny stream but feels scared.

- Place a blue paper or blanket on the floor as the “stream.”
- Let children use Harriet and friends to act out, encouraging her.

Teacher Prompt:

“How can Ollie and his friends encourage her to be brave?”

Let several children take turns playing a friend who cheers her on.

Reflect and Wrap Up

Teacher Script:

“You all did an amazing job! You showed how friends can help each other be brave. Sometimes, being brave is easier when someone is cheering you on.”

Optional Questions for Reflection:

- “How did it feel to help a puppet be brave?”

- “Can you think of a time you were brave like Ollie?”
- “What could you say to a friend who feels nervous?”



Activity 2: Bravery Badges (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

“Now we’re going to make something really special—our very own *Bravery Badges*! These badges will remind us that we can be brave every day.”

Activity Instructions

Distribute materials: Give each child a Bravery Badge worksheet, crayons, markers, and safety pins.

Explain:

“On your badge, you can draw or write about a time when you were brave. It could be something small, like trying a new food, or something big, like learning to swim.”

Decorate:

“Use the crayons and markers to make your badge colorful and special!”

Attach safety pins or masking tape: Help children attach their badges so that they can wear them.

Optional Sharing:

“Would anyone like to share what they drew on their Bravery Badge?”

“These badges are amazing! Remember, every time you wear your badge, it’s a reminder that you *can* be brave.”

Wrapping it Up

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- After students complete their reflections, invite volunteers to share what they learned from their reflections.
- Encourage students to continue using the strategy in their daily lives

Review and Reflection Teacher Script



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

- “Let’s all come back together in a circle.”

2. **Closing**

“Today, we learned that **being brave doesn’t mean we’re never scared**. It means we feel a little scared but choose to try anyway, just like Ollie the Owl and his friends. You all did such a wonderful job showing bravery with our puppet friends and/or creating your very own Bravery Badges!”

“Let’s remember what we practiced today:”

- **In our puppet role-play**, you helped Ollie, Benny, Buzz, and Harriet face their fears. You used kind words to encourage them and helped them try something new.
- **With your Bravery Badges**, you drew or wrote about a time *you* were brave, and now you have a special badge to wear when you need a little reminder that *you can do hard things, too*.

“What could you say to yourself if you’re feeling nervous?”

“What would you tell a friend who is scared to try something new?”

“I am so proud of you all. Today, you showed that you understand what it means to be brave—whether it’s climbing something tall, trying something new, or even sharing how you feel. And remember, when we help each other and use kind words, being brave feels a little easier. You are all brave in your own special way!”

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:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson.

Dear Families,

Today in class, we learned about bravery through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Brave."

This story teaches children that feeling afraid is normal and that being brave means trying new things and facing fears.

Here's what we learned:

- Bravery – Understanding that being brave means trying new things even when we feel scared.
- Facing Fears – Recognizing that everyone feels afraid sometimes, but we can find the courage inside us to try new things.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and/or making "Bravery Badges."

You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about times they felt brave and how they can face their fears.

Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,



Bravery Badge

