

Try Again Towers

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

I can try again if something doesn't work the first time:

This builds perseverance and a growth mindset.

I can stay calm and positive when things don't go to plan:

This supports emotional regulation and confidence.

I can work with others to keep trying and have fun:

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:

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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.

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.