

The Mistake Investigation

Use fictional examples. Leave out diagnoses, medical information, names, passwords and contact details.

Learning goal: Use a low-stakes mistake as evidence for a strategy change.

A mistake can give information without defining you. Choose a made-up mistake if personal reflection feels uncomfortable. Investigate what happened and what could help next time.

1. Choose a real or made-up learning situation. Leave out names, diagnoses and private details.
2. Explore the three activities. Choose supports that fit you; skip any that do not.
3. Write, type, draw, point, sign, use AAC or ask someone to scribe your own ideas.
4. Choose one next step and an adult who can help make it possible.

Grades 3–5 support: Use the prompts and examples, or explain your ideas in your own way. Ask for words, a scribe or one direction at a time.

Collect facts

A student's model falls because a connection is loose. Describe what happened without blame.

What happened

What we know versus what we do not know

The Mistake Investigation

Test a strategy

Propose one change and predict what would improve.

Strategy to try

Evidence that would show it helped

Optional deeper thinking · Grades 6–8

Distinguish a flawed strategy, missing information and chance; design a fair test of one explanation.

The Mistake Investigation

Kind investigator message

Write or communicate a message that combines honesty, support and a next step.

What this mistake taught me

My next helpful action

My next step

What will I try, and who can support it? Write, draw, dictate, sign or use AAC.

The Mistake Investigation

Accessibility & alternative responses

Offer tactile models, verbal scenarios and alternative responses. No real failure or frustrating exposure is required.

Teacher facilitation

Use safe, low-stakes examples; do not demand disclosure of painful experiences. Model factual language and offer help rather than shame.

Family-use suggestion

Invite the learner to choose what to share. Try one support together, ask what helped, and change the plan with their permission. Do not turn this sheet into a test or require private information.

Specialist formats

These printouts are not Braille. Embossed Braille and specialist tactile materials need qualified, technically validated production. The accessible digital version supplies structured text, not a specialist-format substitute.