

3 Barriers to learning

Learning objectives	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To identify barriers to learning ● To identify strategies to help children overcome their barriers to learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A picture of a large rock (see Figure 104) ● An example of a comic strip (see Figures 106 and 107) ● Access to tablets or laptops to create a comic strip (see suggestions of apps below)

Lesson

- 1 *Seat the children with their talk partners, all with a clear view of the board.*

Together look at the image of a rock in Figure 104, which represents a barrier to a child's learning.

Ask the children to talk with their talk partner and think about:

Why has the rock been chosen to represent a barrier to learning?

What could the rock represent as a barrier for your learning? Why?

How can you overcome barriers to learning?

Take feedback from the children.

Why would you use a rock to represent a barrier to learning?



Figure 104 The rock barrier to learning

- 2 Next ask them to reflect on what might be a personal barrier to their own learning. Probe this further by asking them to think about:

Is the barrier related to a specific subject?

What strategies have you tried to overcome it?

Why do you think it's a barrier?



What other strategies could you try?

Again, take feedback from the children.

- 3** Now ask the children to think about whether the barriers to their learning are **internal** or **external**.

You could provide the children with an example to highlight the differences. For instance, children often state that other people talking is a barrier to their learning. This is an external barrier and, while you can discourage others from talking, you cannot necessarily stop them. An example of an internal barrier could be a child's reluctance to ask for help when they are stuck. They may be reluctant to ask for help, as they are afraid of looking bad in front of their peers.

Barriers to my learning

- 4** Explain to the children that they are going to create a comic strip to illustrate a barrier to their learning and ways they can overcome it. You could share a range of examples of children's ideas that they have set in different contexts, including the ones shown in 'Children's responses' on page 210.

The children can record their comic strips on a simple framework (see Figure 105) that they draw first, or they could use an app or website to create them.

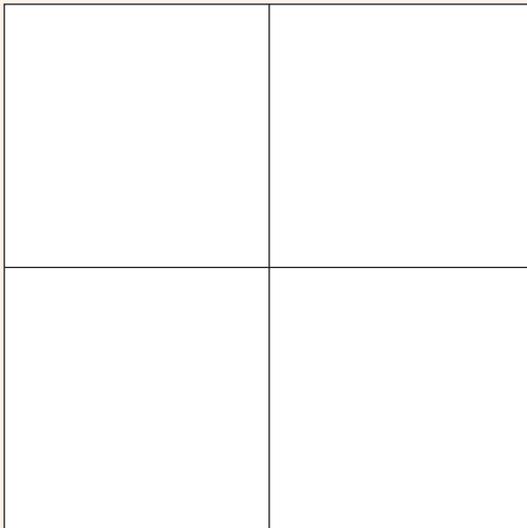


Figure 105 Framework for a comic strip

Possible apps and websites you could use:

- Make Beliefs Comix: makebeliefscomix.com
- Comic Book: 3dtopo.com/apps/comicbook
- Toon Toolkit: available on the iTunes App Store
- Marvel Kids 'Create your own comic': marvel.com/games/play/34/create_your_own_comic
- Pixton: pixton.com
- ToonDoo: toondoo.com

Bringing it together – what have we learned?

Review the children's comic strips and the different strategies they have used to overcome barriers to their learning. Encourage them to use a wide range of strategies by asking the class to discuss what other ways they can suggest to help their friends overcome their individual rocks/their barriers to learning.

Potential suggestions could include:

- Don't give up.
- Ask a partner for help.
- Understand it's part of the learning process.
- Try again.
- Learn a new strategy.
- Revisit your learning.
- Work in a small group to practise.
- Ask a teacher for help.
- Practise an earlier stage.

Challenge

Provide scenarios where the children make mistakes and fail. Then ask them to role play what they would do. They could be given specific roles such as the teacher, child or friend. Use the context of school for some of the scenarios, but provide other real-life contexts as well.

Further developments

Create a class display of a comic strip featuring a child using a range of strategies to overcome barriers to learning. Include the children's creations.

Downloadable resources

PowerPoint presentation 'Why would you use a rock to represent a barrier to learning?'

Framework for a comic strip

Examples of children's comic strips

bit.ly/2dyhQWm



Children's responses

Why would you use a rock to represent a barrier to your learning?

- ‘Because rocks are very hard and you need to challenge yourself to move a rock.’
- ‘Rocks can block pathways and some can be easier to move than others.’

In your learning, what barrier to learning does a rock represent? Why?

- ‘A person talking is a rock as it can distract me.’
- ‘Your attitude can be a rock. As if you think you can't do something and don't try this stops you learning. You're not in the right mindset.’



‘If you are worried about making mistakes this can be a rock and a barrier to learning.’

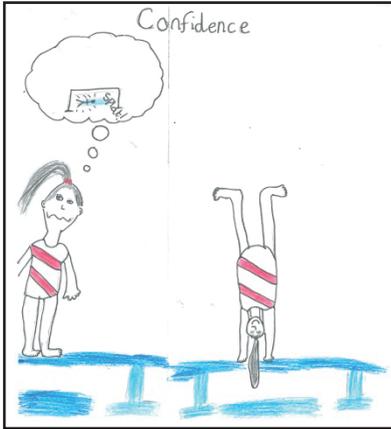


Figure 106 Building confidence

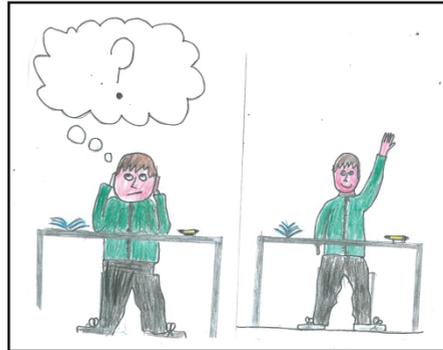


Figure 107 What to do if I don't know the answer

Help me, I'm stuck!

Created By Mrs M



This comic strip was created at MakeBeliefsComix.com. Go there to make one yourself!

Figure 108 Example of a child's comic strip, MakeBeliefsComix.com