A Celebration of Errors – Teaching to Promote Growth

Rationale:

Mistakes are an inseparable part of learning and growth. Studies show that people who make mistakes without disrupting their learning process improve faster and attain greater achievements. Think about infants who learn to walk or eat with a fork. They experiment, make mistakes, and correct them over and over until they acquire a new skill. It’s the natural human learning process. In the classroom, we must identify students who have learned to “avoid mistakes” and help them rethink their assumptions about mistakes and their significance. Otherwise, they will have a hard time persevering in learning, especially in challenging subjects.

So what do we do?

We’ll teach the class the principle of “celebrating mistakes”:

* + - 1. We’ll suggest to the class: Every time a student makes a mistake, for example in a sentence or equation, or fails in a task, we’ll invite the class to “celebrate the mistake” by encouraging the student and complementing them for their effort and for having the courage to try.
      2. We’ll offer creative ways to “celebrate mistakes.” For example, applause or complements. Students can think of their own ideas as well.
      3. In the next classes, we the teachers will also “celebrate mistakes” in class: we’ll stop the class, point out the mistake, and encourage students by complementing their efforts in attempting the task and handling the challenge.
      4. We’ll repeat the activity daily for the next week, at least once or twice with the class.

Important points:

* It’s important to keep up the celebration of mistakes and not miss opportunities. Celebrate your own mistakes with the class too!

Inspiration and Further Resources

* [Link](https://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-5344685,00.html) to ynet article on “developing thought patterns” and the importance of “celebrating mistakes.”