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## Perseverance

### Lesson:

Have you ever failed at something? Did you try out for a sports team or a play and not make it? Maybe you couldn't understand an algebraic equation before a test? I think we all can remember a time when we've found something difficult or flat out failed! Believe it or not, failure is a part of life. What's important to focus on is not that you failed, but how you respond to that failure. Do you just give up and never try again? Or do you learn from the experience and come back better prepared?

***“Failure is part of life, and if our children don't have the opportunity to fail or make mistakes, they'll never realize they can bounce back. That's what resilience is all about.” – Michelle Borba***

Here's a quick and easy activity that will teach your student how to persevere. It's called Deal Me In! and all you need is a deck of playing cards.



### Instructions:

- Prior to starting the activity and without the players knowing, the dealer removes a few cards of each suit from the deck. The dealer keeps these cards where they can't be seen and does not tell the players that they have been removed from the deck – it's a secret!
- There is no limit to the number of players, however, it works best with no more than four.
- The dealer takes on the role of a game show host for the game “Deal Me In!”, challenging players to see who can place the cards in order by color and suit the fastest - starting with the ace and ending with the king.
- The first player has 30 seconds to place the cards in order.
  - When they fail, encourage their effort. For example, point out how close they were to getting it done, or with a little more time, they would've made it.
  - If there are multiple players, have each person try.
- Round 2, give them another chance. Reshuffle the cards and let them know you're giving them 45 seconds this time. They will come considerably closer but will still fail.
- Round 3, acknowledge their effort. “Because you didn't give up, you now have four whole minutes. That's one minute per suit”.
- It should become obvious there are some cards missing during this round, but encourage them to work with what they have and to do the best they can.
  - If there are four or less people, have them all work together this round.
- Once the players have gotten through all the cards, they will realize what happened.

Conclusion:

At this point the participants will feel like they've been tricked because they didn't have all the cards. You can admit that, but also have them reflect on how they continued to work hard despite failing the previous times. The takeaway for the players is this, "In life, failure is inevitable. It's what you do after you've experienced that failure that will define your next steps. With this card game you had no control over the cards you were dealt, however, how you played the cards each time was totally up to you."

Here is a link to a related article, "[How To Teach Children That Failure Is The Secret To Success.](#)"