

Family Resiliency Reading Guide

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

BY WATTY PIPER

After reading *The Little Engine That Could* with your child, use this reading guide to continue the conversation around resiliency at home. In this guide, you will find a description of how this book relates to resiliency characteristics, literacy tips and sample conversation starters for you and your child.

SYNOPSIS

The Little Engine That Could is a story about **perseverance**. After a train full of toys breaks down, a small blue engine agrees to help pull the train over the mountain. The blue engine was very small, but despite her size, she pushes through the challenge and successfully carries all the wonderful toys and sweets to the children on the other side of the mountain.

LESSONS IN RESILIENCY

- ▶ Even though the little blue engine was smaller than the toy-filled train, she accepts the challenge of helping to deliver toys to the children on the other side of the mountain. This was a daunting task and while other larger engines had refused to help, the little blue engine stepped up to the challenge. The little blue engine showed **perseverance** after agreeing to help the larger train by continuing to try even when the job was hard.
- ▶ The little blue engine maintained a positive attitude by saying, "I think I can. I think I can." Despite the uncertainty, the little blue engine **persevered** and stayed positive.
- ▶ In the end, the little blue engine's **perseverance** and determination paid off. She achieved success through her persistence and willingness to help others even when she doubted herself.

RESILIENCY CHARACTERISTIC



Perseverance

Continuing to try when things are hard.

RESILIENCY CONVERSATION STARTERS:



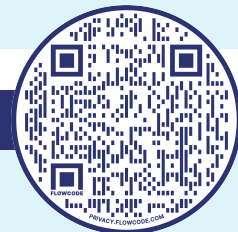
Talk with your child about the importance of continuing to try even when things are hard. Ask your child how he or she could **persevere** like the little blue engine during challenging situations.



Discuss the importance of staying positive in tough situations with your child. The little blue engine said, "I think I can. I think I can." Ask your child to think of a time when he or she would need to stay positive in order to **persevere**.

LITERACY TIP

Oral language development is a key component of learning to read and having reading success. You can help build oral language skills by reading aloud to your child. While reading aloud, encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next in the story, ask questions about what is happening and talk about the characters!



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