

# Tugboat! The Mistakes Show (with Samin Nosrat)

EPISODE LENGTH: 21:31



**SUMMARY:** Today's special episode is all about mistakes! We give you a peek at the first time we tried to do this episode and made so many mistakes that we crumpled it up and started over. Then, we take a kid request to draw a hard-working Tugboat. As we're painting our tugboat, Chef Samin Nosrat calls us. She's with her dog, Fava! Samin tells us about a big mistake she made in the kitchen, how it made her feel, and how she handled that mistake. She drops an egg,

Fava the dog eats it, the camera gets knocked over! More mistakes! And we keep going! We finish our tugboats and look at all the amazing drawings, and talk a little more about mistakes. Watch through the credits for a hidden DrawTogether surprise — a game to see if you can figure out what is out of place on the DT set during the episode.

**SUPPLIES:** paper, pen/pencil, coloring materials (crayons, markers, watercolors)

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING:** raising awareness of self-judgment and perfectionism, emphasizing flexibility, resilience, and growth mindset

**CASEL COMPETENCIES:** self-awareness, self-management

**CREATIVE SKILLS:** fine and gross motor skills (drawing, coloring), color relationships, and imagination



## Guiding Questions:

- Can you think of a time when you made a mistake? What happened, and how did you feel? What made you feel better?
- When you see someone else make a mistake, what do you think? How would you help someone who made a mistake feel better?
- Samin calls mistakes “sparks of creativity.” What’s a creative way to turn a mistake into something different and beautiful?

## Key Moments:

**1:49** Wendy shares about a mistake she made on the show and how she dealt with it.

**3:25** DrawTogether kid, Wild, requests to draw a Tugboat and then Wendy gets started on drawing and coloring in the boat and water around it.

**15:17** Special guest chef Samin Nosrat calls in with her dog, Fava, to say hello. She shares a story about a big mistake she made at her job in a restaurant, and what she learned from it (making onion soup out of chopped onions). She says mistakes can be sparks of creativity... and then drops an egg.



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(continued)



## Book recommendations:

- **The Dot and Ish** — by Peter H. Reynolds

We love Reynolds' messages about art and creativity — that everyone can draw. In *The Dot*, a girl struggles with fears that she can't draw and with feelings of perfectionism. In *Ish*, the drawing-obsessed main character loses confidence after his brother laughs at his art, but learns that his drawings are special even if they don't look like what he intended.

- **The Most Magnificent Idea** — by Ashley Spires

Here, the main character grapples with failure — and gets so mad that she quits. But after a walk and the support of her wonderful dog (sound familiar?), she tries again and manages to get things right. If you want to talk about perseverance and creativity, we highly recommend this story!

- **The Do-Over Day** — words by Julia Inzerro, pictures by Miro Tartan

What do you do when you have the worst day ever? The tips in this book help to deal with frustration, disappointment,

and mistakes (including practical “Event-Think-Act-Feel” instructions).

- **The Book of Mistakes** — by Corinna Luyken

Sooo many great books on mistakes and creativity out there, we just couldn't leave this one off — all about the joyful process of turning splotches and random lines into unexpected artwork

- **Waffles & Mochi series** — Netflix (TV recommendation)

For those looking for a little more food-inspired creativity, *Waffles & Mochi* offers delicious adventures and co-stars the one and only Samin Nosrat.



## Older Kid Riff: Failure Is Our Friend

It's not just making onion soup out of incorrectly chopped onions, or lemonade out of lemons. Silly Putty. Penicillin. Velcro. Frisbees. Post-Its. What do these all have in common? They were all invented by mistake. Take some time to research one of the inventions listed above (or find another — the list goes on!) and share its mistake-story. You may even want to use the scientific method to help understand how failure is an essential part of research and invention. When a first hypothesis fails, how do scientists and inventors go back, observe more, come

up with a new hypothesis, and test again? How might we embrace the fact that making mistakes is not only common, but very important for learning and growing?

**EXTRA RESOURCES: “WHY WE SHOULD EMBRACE MISTAKES IN SCHOOL”** by Amy L. Eve/Greater Good Magazine; **“WHAT IT TAKES TO LAUNCH A TELESCOPE”** a TED Talk by Erika Hamden; *Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be* — words by Charlotte Foltz Jones, pictures by John O'Brien

## Activities and Explorations



**PODCAST CONNECTION: MOST FUN DRAWING EXERCISE EVER: THE BLINDFOLD!** is a silly but

important exercise for letting go of perfectionism and embracing beautiful “mistakes.” (page 74)

**ACTIVITY:** The Doodle Game  
(transform mistakes into magic!)

**SPECIAL GUEST:** learn more about Samin Nosrat and *Salt Fat Acid Heat*

**CLASSROOM POSTER:** Mistakes Help Us Grow by Ishita Jain



# THE DOODLE GAME

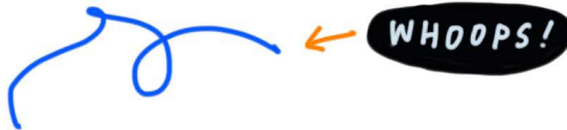
A ONE MINUTE DRAWING GAME THAT TEACHES US TO TRANSFORM MISTAKES INTO MAGIC!

## SUPPLIES:

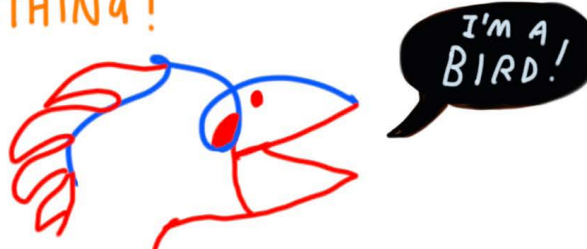
PARTNERS, PAPER and 2 DIFFERENT COLOR PENS

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ONE PARTNER CLOSES THEIR EYES and with ONE COLOR PEN MAKES A RANDOM DOODLE OR "MISTAKE" ON THE PAGE WITHOUT LIFTING UP THEIR PEN.



2. THE OTHER PARTNER USES THE OTHER PEN to ADD to THE DOODLE and TRANSFORM IT into SOMETHING!



3. NOW SWITCH ROLES & REPEAT.

THERE ARE NO WINNERS or LOSERS - JUST ARTISTS !!



## Learn More About SAMIN NOSRAT



A note from WendyMac:

Samin is the author of *SALT FAT ACID HEAT*, star of the Netflix show based on the book, and a guest on Michelle Obama's kids show *WAFFLES AND MOCHI*. Point is: she's just the best, and has been a dear friend since we started working together on Salt Fat Acid Heat many years ago.

Before meeting Samin, cooking felt daunting to me. One day, we were working on Salt Fat Acid Heat together in the kitchen (she cooking, me drawing) and she said, "If you burn it, who cares! It's only dinner. Throw it away and order a pizza." That always stuck with me. It took the pressure off of getting things "right." Making a mistake can feel pretty awful in the moment. But there's a reason Bob Ross calls them "happy accidents." Mistakes are an opportunity to create something new we never imagined. We can fix it, or we can just throw it away and start over! Luckily, we all have lots of opportunities to practice making mistakes — in the studio, the kitchen, everywhere. They are both the hardest and best things we can do.

### And now, a Q&A with Samin Nosrat, and some Salt Fat Acid Heat drawings from Wendy:

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was little, I wanted to be a librarian for two reasons. My aunt, who I really looked up to, worked in her college library and I loved visiting her there and I wanted to be just like her, and also because I loved books! I've always loved books! Books with words, books with drawings, all books! I might not be a librarian now, but the amazing thing is, I get to make books!

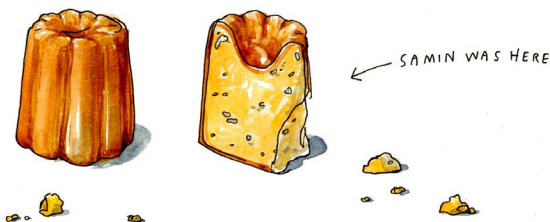


**If you could draw anything that would become magically real, what would it be?**

If I could draw anything that would magically become real, it would be a hug from a friend.

**What is the one piece of advice you'd like to give to DrawTogether kids?**

There is no such thing as failure — the most important element of creativity is practice. Just keep going! And the other most important element of creativity is *be yourself!* Really and truly!





# MISTAKES HELP US GROW

TURN THEM INTO  
SOMETHING ELSE

FIX  
THEM

OR JUST  
START  
OVER.

