



Plan B Adventure

Classroom Guide

When the perfect plan falls apart, the REAL adventure begins

CASEL Competency: Self-Management

Grade Level: Pre-K–2

Duration: 40–50 minutes

Category: Growing Up

Learning Objectives

- Understand that disappointment is a normal response when plans change
 - Discover that flexibility and creativity can lead to something even better
 - Learn that "Plan B" is not a failure — it's a different kind of adventure
 - Practice pivoting from disappointment to possibility
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Overview & Preparation

Key Vocabulary

Plan • Pivot • Flexible • Disappointment • Surprise • Creative • Unexpected • Adapt • Adventure • Possibility

Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Paper folded in half (Plan A / Plan B)
- Building materials (blocks, craft sticks, tape)
- Crayons and markers
- Optional: dice for random challenges

Before Reading

Connection Question

Tell me about a time your plan didn't work out. What happened instead?

Background Building

We all love a perfect plan. But what happens when it falls apart? In this story, the hero makes the most perfect, exciting, every-detail-planned adventure — and then EVERYTHING goes wrong. At first, it feels like a disaster. But then the hero discovers something amazing: the unplanned thing is actually MORE interesting than the original plan. Plan B isn't second best. It's a surprise adventure.

During Reading — Pause Points

- **When the hero's perfect plan completely falls apart** — The plan is ruined! How does the hero feel? How would YOU feel? Is it okay to be really disappointed?
- **When the hero notices something unexpected in the "ruined" moment** — Wait — the hero is noticing something they would have MISSED if the plan had worked! What is it?
- **When the hero declares "this is even BETTER!"** — Plan B turned out better than Plan A! Has that ever happened to you? Why is the surprise sometimes better?

Discussion Questions

1. The hero was SO disappointed when Plan A failed. Is it okay to be upset when plans change? What should we do with that feeling?

↳ How long does disappointment usually last?

2. The hero found something amazing that they would have MISSED if Plan A had worked. What does that teach us about unexpected changes?

↳ Can you think of a time something "bad" led to something good?

3. What's the difference between giving up and making a Plan B?

↳ Is making a Plan B harder or easier than giving up? Why?

4. The story says Plan B isn't second best — it's a surprise adventure. Do you agree? Why or why not?

↳ What makes surprises exciting instead of just scary?

Facilitation Tips

Validate disappointment BEFORE pivoting to positivity. Children need to hear "it's okay to be upset" before "but look at the bright side." Rushing past the hard feeling teaches kids to stuff their emotions. Sit in the disappointment for a beat, then model the pivot.

Emotional Payoff

The shattered perfect plan reveals something the hero would never have found on the planned path. Plan B isn't settling — it's discovering. Disappointment is real and valid, AND it can coexist with surprise and delight. The hero learns that the universe sometimes has better ideas than we do.

After Reading Activities

Plan A / Plan B Flip Book

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Paper folded in half, crayons

Fold paper in half. On the left: draw "Plan A" (the perfect plan). On the right: draw "Plan B" (what actually happened, or what COULD happen if Plan A fails). Share both sides. Discuss: which drawing is more interesting?

Plan B Building Challenge

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Blocks, craft sticks, tape, dice

Children start building a tower. After 3 minutes, roll the dice — each number means a "disruption" (remove 2 blocks, add a curve, build sideways, use only one hand). The disruption forces a creative pivot. Celebrate the wild Plan B structures!

The Pivot Game

Duration: 10 min | Materials: None (movement activity)

Stand in a circle. Leader calls out a plan: "We're going to the beach!" Everyone acts it out. Then: "Oh no — the beach is closed! We're going to... a chocolate factory!" Pivot quickly. Repeat with wild disruptions. Practice: the pivot can be FUN.

Writing Prompts

- Write about your best Plan B — a time something went wrong but turned into something great.
- If your school day went completely off-plan tomorrow, what surprise adventure would you want to happen?
- Draw the Plan A that failed and the Plan B that was even better. Which would you choose now?

Home Connection

Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Plan B Adventure," about learning that when the perfect plan falls apart, the REAL adventure can begin. Your child practiced sitting with disappointment (it's valid!) and then pivoting to creativity and possibility.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- When plans change at home, name it together: "Looks like we need a Plan B! What could it be?"
- Tell your child about a time YOUR plans changed and something unexpected happened
- Play the Pivot Game at dinner: plan something silly, then "disrupt" it and see where the new plan goes

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

Related Books

- What Do You Do with a Problem? by Kobi Yamada
- The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
- Not a Box by Antoinette Portis
- Beautiful Oops! by Barney Saltzberg