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# The Growing Seed — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Management

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**Objective:** Students will understand that "yet" transforms limitations into possibilities and that effort (golden scuff marks) is proof of courage, not failure.

**Essential Question:** *"What changes when we add the word "yet" to "I can't do it"?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, Small pots and seeds (or paper cups), Gold stickers or gold crayons, Paper and drawing supplies

**Vocabulary:** Yet, Growth, Effort, Scuff marks, Practice, Patient, Sprout, Struggle, Bloom, Breakthrough

## **ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)**

Write "I can't \_\_\_\_" on the board. Ask students to fill in the blank. Then add "YET" to the end. Discuss: how does that one word change the feeling?

## **DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)**

Read aloud. Pause when the hero notices golden scuff marks on others' shoes. Ask: "What do those marks mean?" Pause at the "yet" moment. Model adding "yet" to classroom examples: "We can't multiply YET. We can't read chapter books YET."

## **GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)**

Each student writes an "I can't \_\_\_\_ YET" sentence on a strip of paper. Plant these in a class "Yet Garden" on the bulletin board. Practice: when someone says "I can't," the class gently adds "YET!" together.

## **INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)**

Students draw their effort constellation — each star is a time they tried hard. Label the biggest star with their "yet" goal. Write: "My golden scuff marks come from \_\_\_\_."

## **CLOSURE (5 MIN)**

Circle share: "One thing I can't do YET is \_\_\_\_\_. My golden scuff marks prove I'm trying." Add to the class Yet Garden.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Listen for students naturally adding "yet" during discussions. Review effort constellations for understanding. Exit ticket: "What do golden scuff marks mean?"

## **DIFFERENTIATION**

**Support:** Provide sentence frames: "I can't \_\_\_\_ yet, but I can \_\_\_\_." Use picture cards for younger students.

**Extend:** Write a letter to a younger student explaining what "yet" means and why golden scuff marks are important.

## **HOME CONNECTION**

Send home a "Yet" pledge card. Families write one "yet" goal each and post it on the fridge. Check in weekly.