



# TEAM NEWSLETTER



Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Fri: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Office Phone: (281) 969-8759

## #BeFCST

### Website Links

- Competitive Team
- Practice Schedules
- FCST Pools and Parking
- League/Learn To Swim/Tri
- Masters
- Time Standards
- Contact Verification
- FCST Equipment List
- D&J Sports Equipment

### Important Dates

- July 12- 14: Gulf AG Champs
- July 19 - 21: Gulf Senior Champs
- July 20 - 21: Gulf Sprint Series Champs
- July 24 - 28: TAGS
- July 26 - 28: Gulf Summer Champs
- July 30 - Aug 3: Senior Zones
- Aug. 1 - 4: USA Futures

### News & Updates:

- **2019 – 2020 Team Registration** – For all returning families, registration begins June 1<sup>st</sup>! Remember all families must do this. Simply register for the current group.
- **2019 Champions Clinic** - First Colony Swim Team is excited to offer our annual Champions Clinic for summer league swimmers! – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Coach Corner – Learning from Mistakes** – scroll down!
- **FCST Parent SwimSwamp Facebook Group** – [CLICK HERE](#) to join!

### Upcoming Meet Information:

[CLICK HERE](#) for the FCST Competitive Suit Policy

Meet Webpage, Dates, & Location:	Athletes Eligible:	Prelim and Final Entry Deadline:	Volunteer Opportunities:
<b>July 12-14: Gulf AG Champs @ Cypress</b>	Qualified 14 and under swimmers	<b>June 19 &amp; 26</b>	Coming soon!
<b>July 19 - 21: Gulf Senior Champs @ Woodlands</b>	3 or more 15-16 AA times to compete	<b>July 3 &amp; 10</b>	Coming soon!
<b>July 20 - 21: Gulf Sprint Series Champs @ TBD</b>	Swimmers with 2 or less BB times	<b>June 19 &amp; 26</b>	Coming soon!

\*Families are responsible for communicating meet entry issues with their athlete’s respective coach, as their primary coach is most responsible for their athlete’s training and competitive plan

\*\*Once the final entry deadline has passed, no changes may be made on FCST’s end. Athletes can deck-enter at the meet (if allowed by meet management) at their own expense and with coach’s permission. This is not the most ideal way to enter a meet, having schedules planned ahead of time

is very beneficial to the athlete.

## Social Media

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

## Contact Us

Team Accounts &  
Billing

HR & Administration

Volunteer Coordinator

Team Merchandise

Distribution List  
Removal

\*If you are no longer  
affiliated with the team and  
would like to be removed.

Contact  
socialmedia@swimfcst.com

## Coaches Corner

# Learning from Mistakes: Why We Need to Let Children Fail

From the moment newborns are placed in our arms, we love them unconditionally and as they grow, we support them as they learn to sit, crawl, and walk; we guide them as they makes friends; we teach them how to write their names; and provide comfort after every bump and bruise. Our list is full of ways to nurture, support, teach, and provide for our children. But, although it may feel uncomfortable to some, we also need to let them make mistakes. In fact, letting them learn from their mistakes helps build resilience in children and is essential to raising a confident, capable, happy, and successful adult.

When children are given the opportunity to struggle and sometimes fail, you allow them to develop important social and emotional skills. Of course, you shouldn't risk their safety or not respond when what is needed most is reassurance. However, your role should be to support and guide, rather than do for them what they need to learn to do for themselves. It is often during times when things aren't working out or pose a challenge that children have the opportunity to develop coping and resilience skills. Coping skills are like muscles; we don't know how strong they truly are until we need to use them.

Consider the learning that occurs when a child and a friend have an argument. Even though it is unpleasant, children learn to reflect on their own actions, manage their emotions, take another's perspective, solve problems, and compromise. If parents swoop in to fix those problems, children miss out on that critical skill-building that result from learning from mistakes or failure. Further, children that don't have opportunities to fail or struggle and recover have lower self-confidence and a less developed self-concept. They tend to be more fearful of failure and less willing to try new things because they don't know how they will handle it.

## **Opportunities to Encourage Kids to Take Risks & Help Them Learn from Their Mistakes**

- **When your child asks for help:** From tying shoes to homework, respond with, "Let me see you try first and then I will help with the rest." Or, offer to do it together. If your child is non-verbal, give words to his actions so he can start to learn the process. For example, when a child reaches upward to be picked up, you can say, "It seems like you want me to carry you. I will hold you for a few minutes and then we will walk together." You don't need to do this every time, but consider it often.
- **When your child asks for an answer:** A common parental instinct is to share all of your hard-earned wisdom, but in most cases it's best to support your children as they learn on their own. Start with asking them what they think or what they have tried. Then you'll know where you're starting from

and can support them as they discover the answer. If they guess the wrong solution, support them as they experiment and discover why they weren't right. You may not have time for this process every time, but it proves invaluable when you do.

- **When something goes wrong:** Maybe they are fighting with a friend or doing something socially inappropriate like when children lie or they accidentally break a neighbor's window. Instead of telling your children how to fix it or fixing it yourself, start by asking how they think they should fix it. Ask questions like, "How do you think your friend feels? Why do you think he feels that way? What can you do to change that? Why do you think lying is a problem? What might happen because of the lie? How can you solve the problem?" Guiding children to reflect on the problem takes more time, but provides rich learning and skill-building opportunities. While learning from mistakes, they also develop self-confidence, self-concept, and moral judgement that comes from doing something like apologizing to the neighbor and working to right a wrong.
- **When your child doesn't do as well as you expected:** From a low grade to a game loss, life can be riddled with disappointments and failures. Instead of focusing on a fixed marker of success like a grade or a win, it's better to reflect together on what children did, how they excelled, and things they have learned. Their personal growth and achievement should be the focus of these conversations rather than the mistake or failure itself. Consider encouraging rather than heaping on praise as a way to focus on children's ability towards a positive outcome.
- **When you struggle with letting your child fail:** Allowing children to fail is not always easy for parents. The family we grew up in and cultural influences make an impact on how naturally this comes to us. Some of us grew up in families where learning from mistakes was an everyday occurrence; others of us had few opportunities to fail. Fortunately, you don't have to create these scenarios; they exist in everyday life. You just have to get out of the way.

Providing opportunities to develop skills of resilience and coping within a safe, loving, and supportive environment are the best way to prepare children for life's challenges. In the wise words of Ann Landers, "It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."