



FREE LESSON GUIDE

UP! OVER! DOWN!

An Oliver & Penny story about trying again and starting small

Ages 3–7 · PreK–1 · About 10 minutes (reads well in two sittings: the trail, then the hoops) · by Mr. Twisty (Chad Currin)



THE LESSON

Start small, and learn from someone who has been there. Big skills are built one step at a time, with help. *For the kid who wants to do it NOW, and falls apart when it doesn't work the first time.*

SKILLS IT BUILDS

- Persistence: trying again after "a GREAT jump, just not an OVER jump"
- Learning by watching a mentor (Oliver watches Penny; Penny watched Izzy)
- Accepting help, and breaking a big skill into small steps
- Good judgment: on the wet day, Oliver sits it out and gets carried

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did Oliver want to do? Who was he watching?
2. Oliver's first jump landed right where he started. Was it a bad jump?
3. Why did Oliver sit down on the wet day? Was that okay?
4. Where was Penny's very first hoop? Why do you think it started there?
5. What is something you're learning one small step at a time?

TRY IT: HOOP ON THE FLOOR

Set out hoops (or hula hoops and pool noodles) at three heights: on the floor, a little up, a lot up. Every child chooses where to start. Chant UP! OVER! DOWN! and AGAIN! together.

WORDS TO NOTICE

up, over, down, through, underneath · higher, smaller · once, twice, third lap · crunch, chirp, sniff · this way, that way

FRAMEWORKS

CASEL self-management & relationship skills · ELOF Approaches to Learning (persistence) and Perceptual, Motor & Physical Development · ASCA B-SMS 5 (perseverance)

KIDS WILL ASK...

Who is Izzy? Where is she now? Izzy was Penny's big sister, a real dog who performed with Mr. Twisty for sixteen years. The book doesn't say where she is now, so answer in the way that fits your kids.

Did Flying Puppy make it over? Yes! The next pages show Oliver and Penny jumping the tree together, four laps in a row.

Is Oliver a real dog? Yes. Oliver and Penny are Mr. Twisty's own dogs, and the fallen tree is on their real walking trail.

Read-aloud permission: teachers, librarians and caregivers may read this book aloud in classrooms, storytimes and live or virtual library programs. These are picture books, not clinical tools; they open conversations and pair with the supports you already use.