https://www.success.com/how-to-reframe-your-failures/

**Thought for the Week – Growth Mindset**

**W/c 29th October**

How to Reframe Your Failures

February 24, 2017 by [Margie Warrell](https://www.success.com/author/margie-warrell/)

Once upon a time, a partially deaf 4-year-old boy arrived home from school with a note from his teacher. It read, “Your son Tommy is too stupid to learn. We cannot have him at our school.” His mother decided she would teach him herself. Young Tommy might have been hard of hearing, but he was a good student and grew up to be Thomas. Thomas Edison. Yes, the man who forever changed how people lived and communicated, and whose childhood bolstered his [resilience to press on through](http://www.success.com/article/rohn-7-traits-of-the-most-resilient-people) the thousands of failures that preceded the success of the electric light bulb. He would later say, “Many of life’s failures are people who gave up too soon.”

Too often though, we overlook the setbacks and only see the end success.

If you study history, you will find that the best success stories have also been stories of pressing on through failure. Too often though, we overlook the setbacks and only see the end success. We think the person got lucky. That they were in the right place at the right time. That they were born with a genius we lack. That they were destined for greatness. But this is all garbage. Although it might have included a little bit of each, what ultimately led to their success was [a refusal to allow setbacks and failures to define them](http://www.success.com/blog/how-to-handle-fear-and-failure-like-a-boss).

Take Walt Disney. As a budding cartoonist, young Walt faced countless rejections from newspaper editors. He “lacked natural talent,” they said. One day a minister from a local church took pity on him and hired him to draw some cartoons in a small rodent-infested shed behind the church. After seeing a mouse, he became inspired to draw it. Mickey Mouse was born.

Even [Oprah Winfrey](https://margiewarrell.com/my-night-with-oprah-lessons-on-living-with-power-purpose/), my very own hero, had her fair share of setbacks, including being fired from one of her first jobs as a television reporter, being told she was “unfit for TV.” Had she let the opinion of others define her or taken her setbacks as a sign she could never break out from her humble beginnings, she would not be one of the most influential women in the world today.

“You don’t succeed by avoiding failure. You succeed by trying and making mistakes and learning and starting over.”

*Consider…how do you react when you get something wrong or when something doesn’t go as planned?*

*Don’t give up…just try something different!*