

§ 01 — FLAGSHIP SESSION · PILLAR: RESILIENT THINKING

When it breaks, *you build.*



The lesson isn't in the building. It's in the rebuilding. Anyone — anything — can make the first version. The second one is where a person shows up.

Kids arrive expecting to make something. They leave knowing they can fix something. That shift — small, quiet, often invisible to the child themselves — is the entire point of this session.

Over 90 active minutes, participants build, watch their work fail on purpose, and rebuild from the wreckage. The facilitator never rescues. The collapse is the curriculum. By the final phase, each child has a physical object that proves a sentence they couldn't have said an hour earlier: *I can keep going when something falls apart.*

AGES
8–13 (mixed-age cohorts)

DURATION
90 active minutes + 20 min break

GROUP SIZE
8–16 participants

MATERIALS
Paper, tape, scissors, index cards, markers — analog only

VENUE
Pendleton Center for the Arts, Oregon

PILOT WINDOW
Fall 2026

Session Architecture

WARM-UP	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
The Tower Challenge	The Broken Map	The Obstacle Inventory	The Witness Circle	The Bridge
10 min	20 min	30 min	15 min	15 min
Build the tallest paper tower you can in four minutes. When it falls, say nothing. Let them rebuild.	Draw a map from memory. Tear it in half. Reassemble both halves into a map of somewhere you've never been.	List what got in the way. Then build something that uses those obstacles as structure, not as enemies.	Each maker shares — without defending. Peers notice without critiquing. Silence is allowed and honored.	Where does this show up in your life? The session's lesson is named only here, only after it has been earned.

Why this session, and why now

Children growing up alongside generative AI face a quiet problem: the first version of nearly anything is now free. A picture, an answer, a draft, a song. What machines cannot hand a child is the experience of being the person who fixes something that broke.

Resilient Thinking — the capacity to treat failure as creative material rather than a verdict — is not a personality trait. It is a rehearsed muscle. This session is the rehearsal.

"The collapse is not a failure of the activity. It is the activity."

— FACILITATOR NOTE, V2.0

SIGN UP FOR THE FALL 2026 PILOT →
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