

## It's Okay to Dream Big

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### Abstract

This story is a story within a story. Ms. D, a 1st-grade teacher is reading a story to her 1st grade class about dreaming big. She reads this story to help one of her students "Ariel" to gain confidence in her work and school. At the end of the story, Ariel gains more confidence and begins to grow accustomed to her new level of confidence.

### Keywords

Appreciative Education, Appreciative Advising, Dream, children's book

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IT'S OKAY TO DREAM BIG

BY: CHRISTINE DENEUS

*To my first 1st grade class, thank you for allowing me to be  
a part of your dreams*

*Ms. D*

It is a Thursday morning in Ms. D's first grade class. Every one of her students patiently awaits to see which community helper they're going to learn about today.

"Good morning, class" said Ms. D, "In today's class, we are going to continue learning about different community leaders."

All 21 of her students opened their eyes wide with excitement as they enjoy learning about how people make a difference in their community.

“Yesterday,” Ms. D started, “we learned about firefighters and how they help keep us safe from fires. Today, we’re going to learn more about police officers.”

“However, before we begin, let’s answer our bellringer.” Ms. D walked to the board where written in big letters was the following question:

**“WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?”**

Instantly, all of her students,  
but one, raised their hands.

Ariel, who's usually talkative,  
sulked down.

Ms. D immediately noticed.

After class, Ms. D asked Ariel to  
stay back.

"Ariel, why are you not  
participating in class? This is  
not like you."

Ariel looked, and said quietly,  
"Ms. D...I'm not sure what I want  
to be...I never really thought  
about it and I don't know how to  
dream about it like the rest of  
the class."

An idea quickly came to Ms. D's mind.

The next day in class, during story time, Ms. D pulled out a big book called "IT'S OKAY TO DREAM BIG."

"Okay class, today we're going to read a story about dreaming. All I want you to do is close your eyes and listen to the story," Ms. D announced.

Her students looked at each other confused, but did what she asked them to do.

**Ms. D began to read:**

**“ The wonderful things you can  
be, if you are willing to dream.**

**Dreaming is big, it's easy as  
1,2,3.**

**You must have the confidence  
and stand up tall**

**So that the smallest thing,  
won't make you fall.**

**Dreaming begins with a  
thought, an idea, or a saying**

**But if you're willing to dream,  
you must understand what I am  
saying.**



**Dreaming big gives us a sense  
of accomplishment.**

**It starts with a goal on what you  
want to do, but don't let one  
obstacle stop you.**

**Throughout your journey, you  
will see, the different paths you  
must take to succeed.**

**Dreaming big, does not happen  
overnight. It may take days,  
months, or years to accomplish**

**But don't let that discourage you, as dreaming is within.**

**Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is the person inside of you.**

**DREAM BIG! There's no limitations. No matter where you're from, your dreams matter.**

**Don't hold yourself back. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.**

**The End.”**

Ariel's eyes opened big after hearing the story, which prompted her to think about what would she like to be when she is older.

After school, she went home and told her mother how she learned how to dream big from her teacher today. She finally knew, what she wanted to be!

Fast forward to years later where Ariel's in a new classroom. And, it is now her turn to share with her own students how to dream big just like how her 1st grade teacher taught her all those years ago.

THE END