

Terry Tiger's Tale

Learning how to learn

By Emma Sproston





Once upon a time there lived a young tiger cub named Terry. He was a cheerful tiger and loved to play in the jungle all day long. The only problem was, he never really managed to ignore the distractions around him, or get along with other animals. He could never manage to stay enthusiastic about learning and wouldn't take risks.

Now Terry lived in an area full of wildlife and exotic plants. This was the perfect habitat for him. Although he would join in with some games, he refused to play 'tig' with other tiger cubs as he would quickly become bored and give up.

Terry's mum (the tigress) was the only family member he had because his beloved dad had died when Terry was just a newborn cub. This made him feel lonely and miserable at times.

Because Terry missed his Dad, he could sometimes become angry and fall out with his friends. They all had their Dads and Terry didn't think that was fair. His mum, thought about ways to help him. She wanted him to:

try hard,
ignore distractions,
get along in groups, be
enthusiastic and take
risks.



One evening, Terry's mum called him over and said, "Today I have been thinking about how you can become a better learner."

"What do you mean?" asked Terry.

"Well," continued his mum, "I thought I would send you to visit some of the animals who have the skills to teach you lots of different things!"

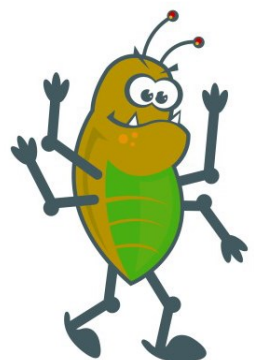
"What kind of things?" asked Terry curiously.

"Go along and you'll soon find out. I think you should start with the termites," she announced.

So off he went to visit the termites who always tried hard and never gave up. When he arrived, he found that the termites were busy making a shelter for the winter. Hearing Terry's footsteps, the termites were afraid at first, but soon calmed down when they saw who it was.

Terry explained that his mum had sent him to learn how to try hard rather than give up too easily.

Travis, the leader of the termites, leapt up and sprinted towards Terry. "Well Terry, I'm more than happy to teach you!" Travis had the biggest grin on his face and all his termite soldiers respected him. He loved helping others! So he encouraged Terry to help them build a large termite nest. Terry put in all the effort he could and soon enough it was completed. He felt extremely proud of himself.





When he returned home, the Tigress asked, “What have you learned from the termites?”

“I learned that I need to persevere, concentrate and try hard if I want to succeed,” smiled Terry.

“I’m proud of you Terry. Now off to bed, you’ve got another trip tomorrow. You’re going to visit the iguanas!” she announced.

She chose the iguanas because they always manage to ignore distractions and just carry on. Terry thought it would be easy to get the iguanas’ attention but actually found it rather hard! They were so focused on watching out for tiny insects that they didn't even notice Terry.

Finally, Terry approached a cute baby iguana named Indi and told her that he wanted to learn how to ignore his distractions. “All you have to do is keep calm and focus. Ignore silly behaviour and if something or someone bothers you, tell an adult or someone you can trust,” she told Terry in a gentle voice. “Parents and teachers can usually sort it out!” “I’ll remember that!” replied Terry gratefully.

Back home Terry told his Mum what he had learned. Again, she was extremely proud of Terry and rewarded him with a tasty dinner!





The next day Terry asked, “Where am I off to today mummy?”

“It’s good to see how keen you are to learn now,” said his mum, “so you’re off to meet the gorillas

because they are so effective at working together and getting along in groups. That is something you need help with.”

So off he went, deep into the forest. When Terry eventually reached the gorillas’ habitat, he was amazed at how they all sat together in huddles. Gustav, the leader greeted Terry, then introduced his family and friends. Some were grooming the baby gorillas, others were gathering bamboo, berries and insects for dinner, whilst some parents were using long leaves to create soft bedding for the babies. The elder gorillas were sitting with the children telling stories. They all seemed to be getting along so happily that it made Terry feel guilty about how he often fell out with his friends. He wanted to be like the gorillas and learn to get along with everyone, so he promised himself that is what he would do from now on.

He said good bye to the gorillas then returned home to tell his Mum all about what he had learned.



That night all Terry could think about was where he would go next. Could it be to visit the old toad, the antelopes or the parrots?

The next morning, as the sun rose across the horizon and the jungle came to life, his mum said, "Tell me what you learnt from visiting the gorillas Terry."

"I learned that all you have to do to get along in groups is to listen to each other, help others, be patient and kind," he responded.

As soon as Terry heard that he was to visit Enid the Emu next, he quickly washed his paws, ate breakfast and set off for his next lesson. Now Terry loved to learn new things, but easily got bored after a while. Enid, on the other hand, was always enthusiastic about things! She was the most cheerful and enthusiastic animal around and everyone loved being in her company. When Terry finally arrived at Enid's home, she was chatting away with her neighbours, the herons, telling them all about the magnificent rainbow that she'd seen the previous day and how wonderful nature is.

As soon as she noticed Terry, Enid called out to him and gave him a peck on the cheek - she greeted *everyone* with a peck-kiss. "I'd be delighted to help you!" smiled Enid when she heard about Terry's problem. "How do you stay enthusiastic all the time?" asked Terry. "I get bored so easily. Maybe you could help me?"



“The world is full of so many wonderful things and there's so much to learn that I just never get bored! Whenever I learn something new, or if I'm practising a skill, then I just think how lucky I am. It's much better to be enthusiastic, because then you keep learning! Try it Terry and see how you get on.”

Terry thanked Enid and headed towards home.

On his way, he noticed a racoon dash across the path in front of him, whilst singing a sweet tune. He wished that he could be as brave as the racoon and sing in front of others. The racoon soon noticed Terry and introduced herself. “Hi, my name is Rita. What's yours?”

“My name's Terry and I really liked your singing. I wish I could sing like that, but I would be too nervous in front of an audience.”

“Everyone can sing Terry,” she replied. You just need to practise and believe in yourself. Sometimes it's important to take risks when you want to be better at something.”



Terry thought about all his adventures and the animals that he had visited over the past few days. He realised that he had many talents, but by taking advice from Travis the termite, Indi the iguana, Gustav the gorilla, Enid the emu and Rita the racoon, he could be even better!

So from that day on Terry followed a new set of rules, he would always:

try hard

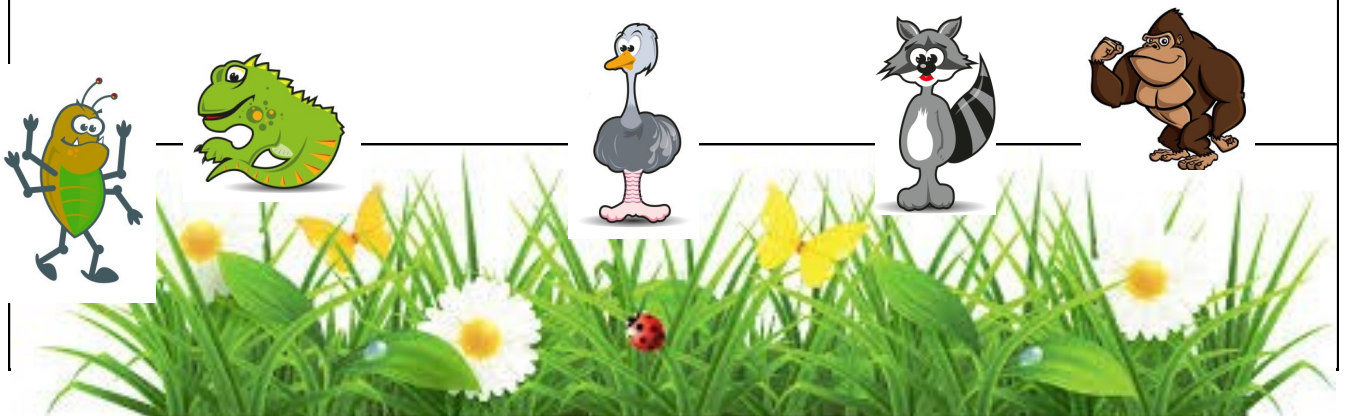
ignore distractions

get along in groups ... be

enthusiastic and take

risks.

Are you a **TIGER** learner?



T
TERMITES

Termites
Try hard

I
IGUANA

Iguana
Ignore distractions

G
GORILLA

Gorilla
Group workers

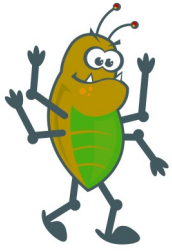
E
EMU

Emu
Enthusiastic

R
RACCOON

Racoon
Risk Takers

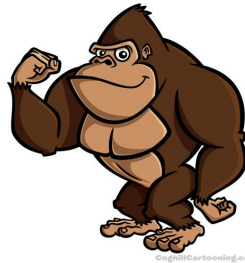




Termites—We try new things. We like to rise to a challenge. We are active learners. We put in 100% effort when we practise. We learn from our mistakes and take no short cuts.



Iguanas— we have stickability we don't give up. We tune in and persevere as we are resourceful. We get in the Learning Zone and concentrate.



Gorillas— we work in groups and teams. We are a learning crew because we listen to our friends. We think of others, suggest ideas, and use skills for the team. We understand others and ask the **RIGHT** questions!



Emus— we are motivated and curious and always ask questions to find out things. We are driven to succeed we are interested and enjoy our learning. We learn from our mistakes.

Have you got the characteristics to be a **TIGER** learner?



Racoons—we are Fear Fighters. We solve problems by thinking. We are not worried about trying new things but we enjoy challenge!