A PIVIPAGES STORY



Alex the Adaptable Axolotl

PiviPower: Adaptable



Every morning, Alex the axolotl liked knowing exactly how his day would begin. The quiet pond, the gentle water, and the familiar places made him feel calm.



Alex smiled as he imagined his morning.
First, he would swim to his favorite shady rock.
Then he would practice slow, graceful loops before resting beneath his lily pad.



But rain had fallen all through the night.
By morning it had stopped…
though the pond had not yet settled.



When Alex arrived, everything looked different.
The water swirled where it was usually still.
His favorite lily pad had drifted far across the pond.



“This wasn’t the plan,” Alex whispered quietly.
He pushed toward the shady rock, but the current nudged him away.
He tried again…and again…
and the water kept carrying him somewhere else.



Nearby, an old turtle drifted slowly past.
He did not hurry to fix the problem.
He simply watched the pond, and waited.



Alex took a deep breath.

Then another.

Instead of fighting the water, he became very still.

For the first time, he really listened to the pond.



Something caught Alex’s eye.
The current rushed through only one part of the pond.
Near the tall green reeds, the water rested peacefully.



“I don’t need the pond to change,” Alex thought.

“I can change my plan.”

He turned gently, let the water help him, and glided toward the quiet reeds.



Soon Alex reached the calm water.
His body relaxed.
His slow, graceful loops felt even smoother than before.
“That worked,” he smiled.



His lily pad was still far away.
But nearby, a broad curled leaf made a cozy little shelter.
It wasn't the place Alex had planned…
but it was exactly what he needed.



The turtle blinked kindly.

The little frog gave a cheerful wave. Alex smiled back.

He hadn’t given up. He had simply found another way forward.



As the day grew quieter, the current slowly faded.
The lily pad drifted back across the pond.
Alex looked at it for a moment…
then happily stayed where he was.



Alex realized something important.
Plans don’t always stay the same.
But when you pause, notice what’s around you, and stay open to new possibilities…
wonderful things can still happen.



The next morning, Alex made another plan.
Only this time, he carried it with a little more flexibility…
because Alex the Adaptable Axolotl knew that when life changes,
he can change with it—and still find his way.

Teacher and Parent Guide

Story summary

Alex the axolotl has a plan for his morning, but the pond changes and his plan does not work. He feels unsure at first, then pauses, observes what is happening, and adjusts his approach. By making a new plan, Alex learns that change can be handled with calm thinking and flexible choices.

Life skill

Adaptable means learning to adjust when something changes. Alex shows children that it is alright to feel uncomfortable when plans do not work — but you do not have to panic. If you pause, notice what is true, and try a new plan, you can still move forward with confidence.

Animal facts: the axolotl

- Axolotls are amphibians, related to salamanders.
- They live in water and have feathery gills that help them breathe.
- They come from Mexico, where they lived in lakes and canals.
- They can regrow body parts, including parts of their tail or limbs.
- They prefer calm water and like to rest in safe hiding spots.

Discussion questions

- How did Alex feel when the pond did not match his plan? What clues told you that?
- What did Alex do that helped him calm down before trying again?
- What was different about Alex's new plan compared with his old one?
- Can you think of a time when your plan changed? What did you do next?
- What does being adaptable look like at school or at home?

Art activity

Draw two pictures: Alex's original plan in the pond, and Alex's new plan near the reeds. Label them "Old Plan" and "New Plan," then circle what changed.

Social-emotional activity

Have students make a "Pause Plan" mini-poster with three steps to decorate and keep:

- Pause.
- Notice. What is happening?
- New plan. What can I try now?

Practise with quick scenarios — your partner is absent, it starts raining at recess, the book you wanted is checked out.

Science tie-in

In a clear container of water, stir gently with a spoon to make a small current. Ask: where is the water fast, and where is it calm? Connect it back to the story: how did Alex find the calm spot?