

CHILDREN AND THEIR ART

We want the children to enjoy art and to talk or not talk about their ideas and their process when involved in an art activity.

The language a workday parent uses to speak to children during their time together is critical.

Parents should make observations about the child and their work and not make value statements. These types of comments generally have judgement and unnecessary value attached to them in the eyes of a child. We want to **encourage** children and avoid over praising them.

Value Statement Examples-a.k.a. What We Don't Want You To Say!

"Good job! Great work!" "Awesome"

"I love it! Mommy will love it!"

"Its beautiful, amazing, spectacular, interesting, dramatic, fantastic!!!!!!!!!!!"

We know it's hard not to say these remarks to any child. But as a workday parent we ask that you do your best to choose language that encourages children and does not praise them.

- In most cases, the less talk going on while a child is working the better. If you speak to them please make observations and use encouraging statements.
- If a child asks you to make (fold, cut, draw etc.) something for them or do it for them, use the following open-ended questions to guide you.
- **Remember less is more! If you don't know what to say then say nothing and smile at them.**

Encouraging Statements-a.k.a. What We Want You To Say!

"I noticed you used a lot of purple in your painting."

"I noticed you blended two colors."

"I see that you wrote some letters."

"I want to hear about what you made."

"You did it"

Open-Ended Questions

What is your idea? What do you need?

What do you think that (shape) looks like?What kind of shape is it?

What does it look like to you? What colors did you use?

How do you start to make a ...? What can you do?

Other Reminders

- We give children time to complete their work or save it until the next day.
- Minimalism is ok! Children should be encouraged to focus on their process, not the end product.
- Workday parents model techniques (rolling clay, holding scissors, using tools). **If a parent needs to demonstrate how something works they should do it like a child would do it. Imperfectly!!**
- **At ANS adults do not make their own art projects on their workday.**
- **Parents do not make art or shapes or hold children's hands to write or manipulate materials.**
- Parents may write a child's name on their work unless a child is capable of doing it. Always ask first!

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- Listen carefully to the Teachers you are working with. They are your mentors!