



## **THE PARENT'S ROLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD ART EXPERIENCES: Building Blocks to Increase Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem**

*Your words are so powerful!*

### **Knowing What To Say: Elevate Self-Esteem**

Ask open-ended, curiosity based questions such as:

- "Tell me about your project!" or "Is there a story about what you have made?"

Avoid questions such as:

- "What is that?" or "What are you drawing?"

Be mindful not to label the product based on interpretation or assumption. For example, saying "I like your dog!" is too restrictive because it might not be a dog, but a dinosaur! This gives your child the opportunity to share with you their story, ideas, and thoughts about their artwork.

Self-esteem soars, and you might just be amazed!

### **Commenting On The Process Or The "How" Versus The Outcome: Increase Self-Confidence**

Examples of possible remarks are:

- "You are making such big movements with that paint brush!",
- "Look how tall your structure is and how well you are squeezing your glue!"
- "You made little dots around your extra large yellow line"
- "Can you tell me about how you made that color?"

Keep in mind these comments should be observational and not outcome based. For example, saying "What tower is that" versus "How you create such an incredible tower?" This allows your child feel encouraged and supported in their creative endeavors which results in elevated self-confidence.

*These "art dialogues" will benefit your child in a variety of ways.  
YOU are providing an opportunity for your child to increase their  
self-confidence and self-esteem along with developing  
their creative and critical thinking skills.*

