

Supporting children's intrinsic motivation and growth mindset

- **Participate sensitively in children's play, following the child's lead.**
- **Show interest in and encourage children to describe their efforts, ideas and products.**
- **Acknowledge children's work and ideas by making specific comments.**
- **Be careful with praise, always being specific about the behaviour – just as with negative behaviour, label the behaviour and not the child.**

'Next time you're tempted to praise your students' intelligence or talent, restrain yourself. Instead, teach them how much fun a challenging task is, how interesting and informative errors are, and how great it is to struggle with something and make progress. Most of all, teach them that by taking on challenges, making mistakes, and putting forth effort, they are making themselves smarter.'

Carol Dweck, *Transforming Students' Motivation to Learn*

<http://www.nais.org/publications/ismagazinearticle.cfm?ItemNumber=150509>

41 ways to say 'Well done'

You remembered!

You're working really hard.

One more time and you'll have it.

You chose a hard way – you'll learn from that!

It looks like you've been practising!

(Child's name) looked really happy when you did that.

I've never seen one like that before.

That was a kind thing to do.

Look at you go!

Keep it up.

You've figured that out yourself.

I can see you ...(*describe details of what child has done*).

Good remembering.

I notice the way you...

That is interesting.

You're on the right track now.

Keep working on it, you're nearly there.

You are learning fast.

You tried a few different ways.

Good for you!

That's the way.

You've got the hang of that.

You're looking really carefully.

I think you've got it now.

You're trying to do even more!

You're learning a lot about that.

That's an interesting idea.

You've been concentrating on that.

Good going! You kept trying.

You've found a new way to do it.

You've done it just like you said you would.

What a lot of detail.

Good thinking. That does make sense.

You haven't missed a thing.

You tried harder and harder.

You knew just what to do.

I bet you're pleased with that.

You really paid attention.

You worked so carefully.

That's it! It works!

Which do you think is the best part?