



LABELED PRAISE

SAY:

A positive sentence about what your child is doing that earns your attention and approval

Examples:

You color so nicely.

I love playing with you.

Nice job concentrating.

You're a fantastic builder.



REFLECTION

SAY:

A sentence that repeats what your child said to you so they know you're listening (it does not have to be word for word)

Example:

(child) "This is my horsey. He jumps high"

(parent) "Your horse jumps really high."



IMITATE

DO:

Move your body or play with toy
the same way as your child

YOU CAN SAY:

"I'm going to do the same thing you
are because that looks fun."



Behavior Description

SAY:

A sentence that describes what your child is doing in the current moment

Examples:

You're coloring the sky.

You're building that so tall.

You're working to make that fit.

You're playing with ... (fill in the blank).



Enjoy

DO:

Make eye contact.

Smile & laugh together.

Give a pat on the back or a hug.



Avoid Questions

AVOID SAYING:

A sentence that asks questions, includes your voice rising up in tone to sound like a question or adding a "tag" on the end to turn a sentence into a question

Examples:

What do you want to color?

Why are you building that?

I'm going to be the dog, ok?"

You want me to be the dog (*voice rising up*)?



Avoid Commands

AVOID SAYING:

A sentence that tells your child what to do

Examples:

Get down.

Play nicely.

Hand me that piece.

Let's play with something else.



Avoid Critical Comments

AVOID SAYING:

A sentence that puts your child down, is sassy, rude or disapproves of their behavior

Examples:

Stop that.

That's naughty.

That's not a nice thing to say.