

6 Creative Ways to Interact with Our Children's Artwork

1

Tell me about...

This is a GREAT statement to ask in replacement of “what is that?” Ask this question if you don't know what a certain part is supposed to be so that the child doesn't feel insecure about their drawing. We do not want the child to receive the message that all art has to be something.

2

I see that you...

Try to make very neutral and observational comments, perhaps about the lines, colours etc. This ensures you avoiding personal remarks or assumptions about their work, and allows the child to know you're paying attention to the details.

3

How do you feel about your art?

By asking this question, you're inquiring them about their thoughts, putting the focus on them so that they're not seeking your approval. At times they may respond with “I don't like it.” Remember! Don't immediately reply back with, “It looks so awesome though! Don't feel that way!” Once that is said, you have just placed your own beliefs on their work and completely dismissed the child's feeling of disappointment. Explore more. Ask, “How come? Why don't you like it?” Give them space to process and to respond.

4

Can you tell me a story about your picture?

When you ask this question, there is no doubt that children will share a story about their art. It encourages them to expand their creativity, even allowing you to better understand what the child is experiencing a little more. However, this question should only be asked for representational art, since it may be tricky for stories to be created about unrecognizable art forms that focused on the process.

5

How did you...?

Once again, this emphasizes the process instead of the product. Ask them how they got to that drawing, how they thought of the idea. This enables the child to identify his/her own abilities to have worked through any challenges in their art making, even enhancing their problem solving skills that may have gone unrecognized before.

6

This looks very creative (expressive, colourful, sad, energetic etc.)...

Try to look for other qualities and adjectives to say rather than generic comments such as “pretty” or “beautiful”. This also lets them know that art is not merely about looking aesthetically pleasing, but that it's about the creative energy and meaning behind it.



Begin Nurturing Creativity

Draw an important or favourite memory (what was a pivotal memory in your childhood)? This activity asks you to document it and reflect on why it was so important to you. Where were you? Who else was there? Why was it important? Child and parent(s) can both do it together and talk about it with each other!

