

Reflective Statements

Arrival - Immediately turn responsibility and power to the child:

Welcome to the playroom. In here you can play with any of these toys in most of the ways you would like. (Limit asking questions, just be a mirror, rephrase). Don't respond to everything; that is too much feedback.

Reflecting Non-Verbal Behavior - Say what you see/observe the child DOING:

- You are pushing that (car) through there (tunnel)
- You are putting a lot of sand in that (bucket)
- You are stacking those high
- You're not sure about being here and you are checking things out in this room
- You're putting that right there while you decide what else you want to use
- You are getting it just how you want it
- You're wondering how this works
- You're wondering if you can touch that
- I see you moving that car all over
- Your face shows me that you're proud. You built..
- You want to know more about that
- You're interested in
- You're curious about
- You really wish we had more time today
- You think that is pretty hard to do
- You really want me to see what you made
- Sounds like...
- You are trying and trying
- You're here in the playroom today, and you're not sure what you want to do
- Looks like you've decided on something you'd like to do today
- You're using all the crayons on that drawing. You're not sure which one you want to use the most
- You know exactly what that baby needed. He was hungry
- (after loud noise) That surprised you. You're curious about what is going on out in the hallway
- Hmm.. you might have in mind lots of things you might want to do today, but you're not sure where you want to start
- You worked so hard to get that they way you wanted it. You wanted to give up at one point but you stuck with it.
- I can tell that you're ready to go because I see that you're...
- You worked really hard to put that together

- You really want me to see what you've done/made
- You know just how to use this
- You show me how you'd like me to do it
- I don't know how it got that way, but you noticed that it has paint on it
- It looks like it can go any way you'd like it to go
- So you're done with that for today. I see you're putting it away
- You want dot play with that, but it is time to go back to your class
- (child asks, "What is this?") You're wondering what that might be. It can be anything you'd like. (Then) You've decided! It is an airplane
- Oh you've offered some to me! What should I do next?
- Okay you've decided to stand up
- You are counting
- You've decided to knock those down
- You've decided that that is a carrot/a spoon/a pointer
- That made you smile

Reflecting Emotions - Show you understand and accept their FEELINGS:

This also shows you are interested and want to understand. It helps children understand, accept and label their feelings. Can use slang (bummer) and sounds (ugh)

- You seem frustrated that...
- You look happy...
- You're angry that...
- You're confused...
- You look excited
- You are sad
- You really like...
- You don't like...
- You seem to be excited about...
- You're really upset. I see you are...
- You really want me to help with that. You can do it on your own in here.
- (if really frustrated) You're trying really hard with that... show me what I can do"
- Boy you're really happy and relaxed here today. You're super excited to be at Primary Project

Other Feeling words:

Aggravated	Content	Frightened	Determined
Scared	Confident	Excited	Embarrassed
Exhausted	Unloved	Proud	Overwhelmed
Strong	Grateful	Secure	Enthusiastic
Playful	Annoyed	Relieved	
Surprised	Pleased	Irritated	
Afraid	Carefree	Frustrated	
Satisfied	Shocked	Nervous	
Lonely	Unhappy	Worried	

- You're really lonely. You're missing someone important to you
- You're not really sure what you want to do today. You're just sitting for now.
- You're mad. You might even be furious that your picture didn't come out the way you had hoped
- You're confused as to where you need to be
- Wow, you're really proud of how hard you worked on that and how it came out!
- It is so frustrating when you just can't get that to work
- You are really surprised to see that!
- Wow it is really frustrating when you have an idea and you just can't get it to work the way you want to. In here, you get to try and try again. It is something you can do here in the playroom. I can tell how frustrating this is for you because you have persisted and tried to stick with it, and it is just not working. Tell me how I can help you/How can we do this together (make them be specific)
- Okay, so you've given me directions and I am going to....
- You like how your picture came out. You're proud you did it without any help
- Wow, you got that ball right to me, just like you wanted to
- You weren't sure what to do with that but you tried something and had fun
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Reflecting Words - Repeat in slightly different words something the child has SAID:

C - There is going to be a big earthquake soon. No one can keep it from happening. Not even Superman

CA - No one can stop the earthquake.

C - It's time for dinner, everyone come to dinner this very minute!

CA - You're letting everyone know that dinner is ready to eat.

Language of Encouragement - Focus on the effort not the product:

This language empowers kids to make decisions and to take responsibility for their current concern.

C: What should I play first?

CA: In here, it is up to you to decide what you'd like to do

Other reflective and encouraging statements:

- That/You can be whatever you want it to be
- You can paint that any color you want it to be
- In here you can spell that word any way you want

- You know just what you want to do and how to make it
- You figured out what you want to do
- In here you can decide how you want to play
- You can decide what colors to use
- You are working hard on your picture
- You got it just the way you want it and are excited to give it to your mommy
- Show me what you want done
- You did it
- You figured that out
- You know how to...
- You are proud of your...
- You really like your...
- Sounds like you know a lot about...
- You got it
- You worked hard
- You really like the way it turned out
- Even though it was difficult, you kept trying and trying and you didn't give up
- You used a lot of different colors

Useful Starters

I see that...

I see you...

I can tell that...

You've decided...

You are...

You like it when...

You know exactly...

You weren't sure...

That made you feel...

It is so...

Hmmm...

Wow...

Boy...

In here, you get to...