

3-6 years
Article

How To React To Your Child's Creations

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Your child's artistic work is a way for her to express herself and it's an important part of her childhood. You're proud of her creations, and you keep them as mementos, or put them up on the fridge. The way you react when she comes up to you to proudly show off her creation also plays an important role in how she sees herself and how her artistic abilities can develop.

Here are a few tips to make sure you're being supportive and empowering:

- Let her be. It's tempting to help, but let her find her own way, and wait for her to ask you for help or guidance.
- Talk things out. Let your child explain her work and listen closely to what she has to say. This allows her to articulate her artistic thinking and process.
- Let her teach you. Ask her to teach you about her skills. Teaching is a great way to reinforce learning and mastering a skill.
- Appreciate the effort. Not everything she does is going to be a masterpiece, but it is the effort put into the work that really matters. Remember that not all kids are gifted in the arts, but practice makes perfect.
- Show it off. Let her show off work that she is particularly proud of. Let her show it to family members and friends. This will reinforce her self-esteem.
- Be kind. She has put a lot of effort into her work, so take the time to encourage her and appreciate her creation.

Reference:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/giving-feedback-seven-ways-to-respond-to-your-childs-creative-work/>