



# AcornDreams® Blog Tips

Building Children's Skills for Life - Pointers from our Posts

From Blog Entry "To Praise or Not to Praise....What REALLY Helps Children?"

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## Research Summary

Research shows that how adults encourage children makes a difference! Help children be more persistent, curious, and creative by directing their attention in ways that reinforce these qualities.

## Tips from this Post

**Comment on effort-based behavior like persistence or practice instead of broad praise.**

Instead of: *"You're awesome at writing letters."*

Try: *"Your careful work shows in how you wrote these letters."*

**Describe something specific you observe a child doing.**

Instead of: *"Thank you for being a great helper!"*

Try: *"You kept moving the blocks until they all fit on the shelf. Thanks!"*

**Comment about process rather than complimenting an end product.**

Instead of: *"This is such a beautiful picture."*

Try: *"You used a lot of red and blue. Tell me what you like about this picture."*

**Encourage children to tackle reasonable challenges rather than protecting them from possible failure. Trying and failing is part of learning and growing.**

Instead of: *"Get down, monkey bars are too hard for kids your age."*

Try: *"Good for you trying something tough! Sometimes we have to work hard and keep trying to learn something new."*

To read the blog entry "To Praise or Not to Praise...What REALLY Helps Children?" visit the [AcornDreams.com](http://AcornDreams.com) blog page.

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