



# Teacher as Responder:

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Talking to Children About Their  
Art



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# Body Language

- We speak with more than words.
- Faces mirror our feelings.
- Movements and gestures also express our feelings.



# Active Listening



- Waiting
- Looking
- Responding

# How should teachers respond to young artists verbally?

- Think about what you are going to say.
- Practice responding to children and their artwork.
- Speak to children individually.



# Too Much Praise



- Overuse of praise undermines the behaviors we want to reinforce.
- Praise does not encourage children to think about what they have done.



# Instead of praise, try....

- Positive feedback
- Descriptive statements
- Describing artistic decisions
- Paraphrasing
- Describing art concepts

# Line





# Shape



# Color



# Texture



# Form



# Contrast



# Pattern





# Goals of Art Dialogue

- Encourages children to draw for self-expression rather than teacher-pleasing
- Encourages children's critical thinking
- Reinforces children's understanding of art vocabulary
- Supports children's development of descriptive vocabulary

Never assume you know  
what it is!!!





# Taking Dictation

