

## Supporting children's intrinsic motivation and growth mindset

- Participate sensitively in children's play, following the child's lead.
- Show interest in and encourage children to describe their efforts, ideas and products.
- Acknowledge children's work and ideas by making specific comments.
- Be careful with praise, always being specific about the behaviour – just as with negative behaviour, label the behaviour and not the child.

'Next time you're tempted to praise your students' intelligence or talent, restrain yourself. Instead, teach them how much fun a challenging task is, how interesting and informative errors are, and how great it is to struggle with something and make progress. Most of all, teach them that by taking on challenges, making mistakes, and putting forth effort, they are making themselves smarter.'

Carol Dweck, *Transforming Students' Motivation to Learn*

<http://www.nais.org/publications/ismagazinearticle.cfm?ItemNumber=150509>

### 41 ways to say 'Well done'

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| You remembered!  | Good for you!                                |
| You're working really hard.                                  | That's the way.                              |
| One more time and you'll have it.                            | You've got the hang of that.                 |
| You chose a hard way – you'll learn from that!               | You're looking really carefully.             |
| It looks like you've been practising!                        | I think you've got it now.                   |
| (Child's name) looked really happy when you did that.        | You're trying to do even more!               |
| I've never seen one like that before.                        | You're learning a lot about that.            |
| That was a kind thing to do.                                 | That's an interesting idea.                  |
| Look at you go!  | You've been concentrating on that.           |
| Keep it up.  | Good going! You kept trying.                 |
| You've figured that out yourself.                            | You've found a new way to do it.             |
| I can see you ... (describe details of what child has done). | You've done it just like you said you would. |
| Good remembering.  | I think you've got it now.                   |
| I like the way you...  | Good thinking. That does make sense.         |
| That is interesting.   | You haven't missed a thing.                  |
| You're on the right track now.                               | You tried harder and harder.                 |
| Keep working on it, you're nearly there.                     | You knew just what to do.                    |
| You are learning fast.                                       | I bet you're pleased with that.              |
| You tried a few different ways.                              | You really paid attention.                   |
|  | You worked so carefully.                     |
|  | That's it! It works!                         |
|  | Which do you think is the best part?         |