

POINTS TO PONDER

- ♥ The pressures of doing well and being the best are going to come soon enough. Enjoy the NOW!
- ♥ Create manageable expectations. Don't push. Don't compare to other kids. Make learning fun, not a chore, and not to win your approval. This is not a report card on you, but rather how the child views him/herself now and later as an adult. Your child is a child of God and already a winner!
- ♥ Everything is a teachable moment. Your child's mind is a sponge. Soak...Soak...Soak. Provide exposure to a variety of events, places, objects, smells, textures, tastes, music. Let him draw inferences. Children learn by doing, and play is a child's work. So, play!
- ♥ Children need bite-size doses of structured learning, and they need to wiggle in between those doses. They learn when they wiggle, too, and it's good for their motor (physical) growth and development.
- ♥ There is a fine line between being too critical and offering unjustified praise. A child's heart, also, is like a sponge. Children need praise often, but they need meaningful praise over empty words. The following list will provide some ideas to go along with the ones you're already using.

PRAISE & WARM FUZZIES

- ♥ I knew you could do it. It just takes practice. ♥ *You're catching on pretty quickly now.* ♥ Your circles are nice and round. They are easy to read. ♥ I appreciate how you were careful with the glitter. Since we don't have much to clean up, we have time to read an extra book. ♥ That's an interesting idea. Tell me more. ♥ *That's a funny one. I especially like the joke about* ♥ Looks like you're figuring it out. ♥
- RIGHT ON!** ♥ It was very thoughtful of you to share your crayons with your friend so he/she could color, too.
- ♥ You are getting better and better at this. ♥ **Thank you for using your "indoors voice" at the grocery store. The other shoppers appreciated it, too. I know it's hard to remember, but you did it!** ♥ *Thank you for putting your crayons back in the box. They'll be quicker to find next time.* ♥ Thank you for putting your toys away. It hurts to step on them with my bare feet. ♥ Thank you for bringing your plate to the sink. It helps me get done washing the dishes faster...so we can play! ♥ I love your imagination...the way you chose those colors...etc. ♥ *That sounds just like a bear. Ooh, I'm scared!* ♥ Thank you for saying those nice things to our neighbor. I'm sure it made her feel special. ♥ *That's a pretty shade of purple.* ♥ **You're an ace at this now.** ♥ *You make me smile/laugh...* ♥ You are a bright spot in my day. ♥ You're on the right path. Keep going! ♥ **Hooray for you!** ♥ Your letters are nice and neat. Easy to read. ♥ **WELL DONE!** ♥ I knew you could do it! ♥ Spectacular! ♥ *Thank you for....* ♥ *You're right on target.* ♥ Keep this up, and you'll be a pro. ♥ *That orange was a great choice for the frog. It made him look really funky! Did you know frogs come in all colors? We should HOP over to the computer / library and look it up...* ♥ You are beautiful. ♥ *You are one of a kind.* ♥ **Beautiful work / picture / poem / story / colors.** ♥ Those colors go really well together. Very pretty/interesting. ♥ *You are my sunshine.* ♥ You make my heart sing. ♥ I love you.