

Tips for Using Mirror Talk

Notice things children do and say, and reflect that back to them.

- A baby reaches for a rattle:
“Wow, you really stretched your arm to get that rattle.”
- A toddler picks up a pebble from the ground and looks at it:
“Oh, my! You found a very interesting pebble. Feel how smooth it is!”
- A 3 year old stacks blocks and says, “Hooray, I can do it!”:
“Hooray for you! You’re stacking the blocks one on top of the other to make a tower. I wonder if you can build it even higher!”
- A 4 year old takes her coat off and hangs it on a hook:
“Look at you! You can take off your coat and hang it up. I remember when that was hard for you to do!”
- A 5 year old places a leaf under the tripod magnifier:
“I see you’re using the magnifying glass lens to investigate the details of the leaf. What are you noticing?”
- A 6 year old uses a tally mark to keep score of a card game and announcing. “I figured out this cool way of keeping score.”
“Using tally marks is a pretty cool way to keep score? How did you figure it out?”