







## What to Say Instead of “Good Job”

Montessori encourages language that highlights a child’s effort, concentration, and growing independence. While phrases like “good job” may feel supportive, they often shift a child’s focus toward external approval. These alternatives are designed to nurture intrinsic motivation and genuine confidence by encouraging reflection and self-awareness.

### Instead of this...

### Try saying this...

 Good job stacking!	 You stacked all the blocks so carefully.
 Great drawing!	 You used so many colors in your picture.
 You’re so smart!	 You figured that out by trying something new.
 Nice work!	 You kept going, even when it was tricky.
 I’m proud of you.	 You looked really proud when you zipped your jacket.
 Wow, that’s amazing!	 You concentrated until you finished every piece.
 Awesome job!	 You wiped the whole table without being asked.
 That’s beautiful!	 You chose all of those beads by yourself.
 I love that!	 You decided where each block should go.
 Perfect!	 You noticed when the pieces didn’t fit and tried again.

### Why This Works

These phrases help children reflect on their own actions and effort. They encourage persistence, concentration, and pride in real work. By focusing on what the child did — not how we feel about it — we support long-term confidence and internal motivation.