Talk With Kids' About Art

(Without asking "What is it?")

"I Wonder..." Statements

These invite kids to think deeper about their process and choices, without demanding an answer.

- I notice you filled the whole page.
- I notice you made that line really dark and bold.
- I notice you changed your mind while you were working.
- I notice your brushstrokes go in lots of directions.
- I notice you mixed some new colors yourself.

"I Notice..." Statements

These show you're really looking and paying attention. They help kids feel seen and validated.

- I wonder what inspired this idea.
- I wonder how you got that texture.
- I wonder how you knew you were finished.
- I wonder what you were thinking when you made that part.
- I wonder how this picture makes you feel.

Encouraging Comments (Non-Evaluative)

These statements celebrate effort, creativity, and personal expression instead of judging quality.

- You worked so carefully on this.
- I can tell you had fun making it.
- You kept going even when it got tricky.
- You really experimented here!
- You seem proud of your work—and you should be!

Open-Ended Questions

Perfect for letting kids share their thought process or story.

- What part did you enjoy making the most?
- What was the trickiest part to figure out?
- What do you like most about how it turned out?
- What would you call this piece?
- What would you change if you made it again?