

Important points to remember as you and your child interact with their digital portfolio...

1. What does the artifact of learning communicate? What was your child (or their teacher) trying to share by posting this artifact?
2. Portfolios are not about *judgements of work*. The best conversations are those when we give feedback or asking questions that stretch thinking. That moves learning forward!
3. Who owns the learning? Who selected the evidence of learning? What role did your child play in this process? Is your child able to accurately assess their learning with evidence? In what ways is your child displaying ownership of their learning?
4. Process trumps product. Sometimes the final product of learning does not honour and reflect all the work that came before it. Comment on product, but don't forget to focus on the process of learning that led up to the actual artifact of learning.

Parents, here are some possible sentence starters to help begin and maintain conversations around what you see in your child's learning portfolio...

- Why did you choose to post _____?
- Why do you think your teacher posted _____?
- I notice how you... (*be specific, focusing more on perseverance and less on "ability", avoided phrases such as "You're so smart" "You are such a talented artist"*)
- I am so proud that you are now able to...
- I can see you tried really hard to....
- Look - now you can...
- You have improved in...
- I can see evidence of growth... You used to... but now you...
- When I compare these two pieces of work, I notice...
- When you look at these two pieces of work, what do you notice?
- I know you found this work challenging, but look at how you...
- Before you had trouble with... but now you can...
- At the beginning of the year you did not know... but now...
- I was pleased with how you did this work because...
- I can see that you are doing better at...
- Can you explain your thinking about this...?
- You've achieved your goal of _____ !
- I can see evidence of growth toward your goal because...
- What I like about this work (artifact) is...
- I am impressed with this work because...
- One way at home that we can try to help you is....
- What do you like most this work?
- Do you think you need some help with...?
- What do you think you could you do differently next time?
- How else do you think you could...?
- Did _____ turn out the way you expected?
- I know _____ didn't go as you planned but I can see that...
- Tell me about...

"...For when students assemble and share portfolios, they perform acts of metacognition that deepen their ability to learn, their desire to learn, and the learning itself."

-Stiggins et al, 2006

"We have daily conversations with our children about the new things that are uploaded to their portfolio. We love this time and cherish the excitement they have showing us what they are up to and the pride they have in showing us their work."

-Surrey Parent