

Growth Mindset Phrases for Children

It is critical to model a growth mindset for children, and changing the language you use will demonstrate this concept.

Try replacing a few of the phrases in the left column with a phrase from the right column. Additionally, when a student exhibit a fixed mindset with a phrase in the left column, respond with a growth mindset phrase in the right column.

Refrain from saying:	Instead, say:
You are so smart!	You worked so hard!
You are good at math!	You are a very hard worker!
You are very intelligent!	You showed a lot of grit!
You are clever!	I like how you persevered with that problem.
Students may say:	Your response:
I can't do it!	You can't do it...YET
This is hard!	You can do hard things.
I don't know how to do this.	We can learn how. You have already learned to do many things.

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