




1. You worked hard on that project
2. You put a lot of detail into your picture
3. That took a lot of patience
4. Your studying really paid off
5. That shows dedication
6. You are really getting good at printing your name
7. You are feeling so excited
8. That took a lot of imagination
9. You are so brave
10. You really demonstrated good sportsmanship tonight
11. How creative
12. You finished your first chapter book!
13. You are so responsible
14. Speaking up for a friend shows a lot of courage
15. Can you tell me more about your drawing?
16. I noticed that the towels were folded so neatly
17. Thank You!
18. You can do it
19. Returning the money you found shows that you are honest
20. You were very respectful talking to Mrs. Johnson tonight
21. High-Five!
22. This is a big test/project, you are managing your study time wisely
23. You did it!
24. You are learning to balance on one foot
25. Amanda smiled when you gave her that toy
26. You've been working hard on this book report tonight
27. Hugs
28. You colored the sky blue and the house purple (describe what you see)
29. Which part do you like the best?
30. Can you show me how you built this lego tower?
31. Sharing your ice-cream with your sister was a very considerate thing to do
32. That is a tough piano piece, you are making a lot of progress
33. You are skipping around the living room
34. You guys worked together to repair the fort, wonderful teamwork!
35. You set a good example for the other students in the class
36. Wow!
37. This progress report shows just how much time and effort you put into that project
38. All of the books are put back onto the shelf
39. You finished that in record time
40. Thank you for being so patient with your sister
41. That was very thoughtful
42. I'm amazed by your ability to write such moving poems
43. You are thinking through your choices
44. You are strong
45. We couldn't have done it without you
46. You are using your imagination
47. What a beautiful smile
48. You did that all by yourself



48  
ALTERNATIVES  
TO SAYING,  
"GOOD JOB!"

If a child does something caring or generous, you might gently draw his attention to the effect of his action on the other person: "Look at Abigail's face! She seems pretty happy now that you gave her some of your snack." This is completely different from praise, where the emphasis is on how you feel about her sharing.