

Language that encourages a growth mindset

Recognition of small evidence of growth after being stuck: *John, you made two comments during sharing in our CPR this week. Did you notice? I really enjoyed hearing your thoughts.*

Relevance of strengths in other areas compared to stuck places: *Sharon, the determination you show in basketball shows me how much grit you are capable of. Let's talk about how you could draw on that skill when faced with math challenges.*

Recognition of effort when growth is slow: *Gerald, you stayed with this assignment from beginning to end. Your notes were thorough, and you participated in our discussion. You didn't quite hit the learning target, but you came close, and if you keep up your effort, you're going to start hitting the targets, and even surpassing them.*

Recognition of effort when progress is thwarted: *Alan, I appreciate your effort to contribute to your group's project, even though you joined late. Even if your piece doesn't become part of the final product, you have learned something by jumping into the process.*

Reinforce your commitment to the student and to the Social Contract: *Jackie, I'll never give up on you. I know you can learn and grow. I'll always be in your corner. I'll never give up on enforcing our Social Contract, either. Let's come up with a plan that gives you a chance to grow.*

Demonstrate flexibility as you plan together: *Jim, it seems neither taking breaks nor losing privileges is helping you get hold of yourself. It doesn't matter to me how we work together to get you back on track; I just want to find something that works for you. How would you like to be redirected?*

Share personal stories of growth: *Jeanine, lately you've been looking tired and unmotivated, like you don't have a lot of energy. It happens to me, too. There are days when I come to work tired because the baby was up all night, or I had a cold and couldn't sleep. So I've been there, and I think I know how you feel. Over the years, I've learned to fight through the fatigue and get things done anyway. If I don't, who will? Well, it's the same for you...we all go through times like that. When it happens to you, I suggest you hang in there, even though it's not easy: participate, work extra hard to stay engaged and on the right track. When you do, you'll find the progress you make to be extra satisfying.*



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