

## Supporting Learning: Interacting with your child's digital portfolio

Meaningful learning requires personal commitment and partnerships. The most important contributor outside the school is parents or guardians; their participation and interest are crucial to students' motivation and success.

An important part of the work parents do with their child involves the conversations they have with them daily, and interacting with their digital portfolio. Your involvement will strengthen your child's achievement in school.

### Examples of parent comments:

This parent connects with their child's ideas and then poses a question to move the child's thinking and learning. The parent has offered an invitation to move the learning deeper.



*"Interesting facts about polar bears. You mentioned that polar bears are becoming an endangered species. Scientists are also finding that polar bears aren't growing as big as they were in the past. They believe that global warming is the reason for this. How do you think a warmer Earth can cause polar bears to become more endangered and smaller as a species?"*

*I remember when you signed up to be an "Earth Ranger" last year on their website. You should check it out again! What was your favourite activity you did at the workshop?"*

Another parent makes a comment prizing and acknowledging their child's strengths and work ethic. They share a personal comment about how they are touched by their child's work.



*"Putting your best foot forward in everything you do shows how strong, determined, and hard-working you are. I love how you are never swayed to be anything but yourself!"*

These parents respond to their child's reflections, acknowledging and prizing his learning. The parents also add an observation regarding the learning demonstrated.

### STUDENT:



*"In six months I have improved my writing by adding more detail and describing words and my printing is better. I think my stories are more interesting for the reader. For example, you can notice how I try to pull in the reader with my first sentence, like 'I really, really want a dog!' So the reader obviously wants to find out why."*

### PARENT:



*You have really improved parts of your writing in six months. A strong opening is very important so your reader wants to continue. I also see how you chose to write three short pieces and drew lines to separate each and made a new title for each write.*

### Suggested "conversation starters":

Acknowledge the learning:

✓ "Today I noticed how you..."

Make an observation:

✓ "I noticed how you..."

Ask a question

✓ "How did you..."

Share a feeling or personal or home connection:

✓ "Seeing your learning today reminds me of..."

Offer a suggestion or a next step

✓ "Have you thought about..."

Ask for more explanation:

✓ "Tell me more about..."