



# Scaffolding Technique



## What is a scaffold?

- A scaffold is a superstructure around another structure that gives it temporary stability.
- A scaffold gives support during changes.
- A scaffold allows changes to be made easily and safely.



## How are parents like a scaffold?

- They gently support the child to try something new.
- They do not take over, but add stability to the child's efforts.
- They offer praise for each step, giving confidence to the child.
- They give support or comfort when the child is unsure.



## What are scaffolding techniques?

- Structure for success (safe place, good timing, right toys).
- Divide problems into doable tasks.
- Start the child with an easy, familiar task.
- Demonstrate (model) a new skill.
- Encourage: give little rewards often (“You did it!”).
- Show the child the next best step for success.
- Allow the child to try and to experiment.
- Never scold. Ignore mistakes.
- Fix problems without pointing them out.
- Extend the task.
- If the child tunes out, *quit*.
- Do not finish the task for the child. Leave it undone.
- Reward the child for whatever he or she accomplishes. (“You stacked the blocks! Good job.”)



## Why use scaffolding?

- Scaffolding fosters learning. It is used by coaches, mentors, and support persons.