

10. In-the-Moment Language Card

Cut or keep as a full page. These are prompts, not scripts. Use the wording that sounds natural in your household.

CLARIFY

"What does finished look like?"

INVITE THINKING

"What do you think?"

OFFER BOUNDED HELP

"What part do you want help with?"

RETURN OWNERSHIP

"What do you think the next step is?"

MAKE COST VISIBLE

"What would it take?"

MAKE TRADE-OFFS VISIBLE

"What else could those credits do?"

SUPPORT A REAL CHOICE

"What happens if you choose that?"

RESPOND TO INCOMPLETE WORK

"That isn't finished yet. Try again."

AFTER A POOR CHOICE

"What do you think happened?"

REPAIR AN UNCLEAR STANDARD

"I wasn't clear about the standard. Here's what done means."

AVOID RESCUE

"Do you need help figuring it out, or do you need some time?"

INVITE REFLECTION

"Would you make the same choice next time?"

Use fewer words than you think you need. A good question often does more work than a lecture.