Overheard in the Prep art class.......  

Recently the preps were learning to make a pinch pot in clay. This entails the walls and the bottom of the pot to have an even thickness; this requirement follows a time of exploring, play and free experimentation and skill development in learning how to join clay. I wish you were there to see “Bounce back” in action as we were working with clay. (Here is a transcript)

The Learning Pit.

Teacher:” When you are learning something new, you are at the edge of what you already know or what you already can already do, you are about to take your next step. Sometimes this is an easy forward stroll.

Sometimes it feels like you are at the edge of a cliff stepping out into space or tumbling down a steep hill. What can you do if you find yourself at the bottom of the learning pit?

You could choose to do nothing. This means you will stay where you are. You will be stuck down in a low place and not achieve your next learning step.

How do you climb your way out of this low place?”

Students:

- You be brave.
- You think your way to the top.
- You try your hardest.

Teacher: “These are very good ideas but what if you still can’t do it?”

Students and Teacher

- You stay brave.
- You keep thinking your way to the top.
- You try your hardest ....again.
- You watch a friend.
- You help a friend.
- You ask the teacher.
- You have confidence.
- You be patient with yourself.
- You tell your mind “Yes I can do it!”

Teacher: “Soon you will have taken your next step because you believed you could and when you do you can dance a little victory jig singing “I did it! I did it! I did it!” and get a big fat tick in Linda’s Idoeco app on her I pad to show you made a pinch pot.”

Later students will be using this skill to make a sculpture that they will keep and because they have mastered this skill, their sculptures will not crumble apart as they dry, offering further intrinsic reward for their learning efforts. Linda Weisser Visual Arts Teacher.