Giving Feedback and Getting Inspired

One thing that we did in our makers club this year was we did a gallery walk. It's probably towards the middle of the time we were working on the final projects because all the kids had these really cool projects, but they maybe weren't aware of what the other kids were working on. They might have been aware of the other kids at the table, but maybe not other kids in other places around the room or some of the some of our students who maybe keep to themselves more.

We had one student this year who doesn't talk to a lot of kids that often and when he came to makers club he would be working on his projects by himself, working really hard on it, and he made this really cool game, also a video game and also another kind of board game. And when we did the gallery walk, the other kids in the class started to really see what he was working on. And it was they were quite impressed with it and they had a lot of questions for him. And also they all wanted to try the game.

So that was a way for him to really interact. And you could see the delight in his eyes because he was working on it, but he hadn't really shared it yet. And when other kids started to play the game for him, I think it was a really great connection and it was a way for him to connect with other people.

The other great thing about the gallery walk is that the kids, they have a lot of respect for each other's projects and a lot of questions, interesting questions and also suggestions. If I were to do it again, I might even do it earlier in the process of the final project because they asked each other a lot of questions.

For example, one girl was trying to figure out how to make her ice cream cone look like it was strawberry ice cream, and the paint that she had tried to use, she first tried to use a marker and it just didn't look the way she wanted it to. And some of the other kids had ideas about mixing glue with paint and trying all these different things, which ultimately was what she did and was successful.

So I think giving them a chance to ask each other questions, give each other feedback sometimes get inspiration from other people's projects that they bring back to their own project. I think that was something that was really successful that we did this year.