

# HOW TO USE PRAISE IN YOUR CLASSROOM



## Using praise in the classroom can bring all sorts of benefits

Used well, praise can increase students' academic, self-regulation, and social skills, and their on-task behavior. It can give teachers more time for instruction and decrease the amount of time they have to spend on setting limits and correcting behavior. Here are some tips for using praise effectively.

## 1 SPECIFIC PRAISE INCREASES EFFECTIVENESS

### Non-specific

VS

### Specific

Great job!

Thanks!

Way to go!

Great job using a quiet voice!

Thank you for asking to share and taking turns!

I really like it that you were such a good sport, even though you didn't win the game!

## 2 WHY USE SPECIFIC PRAISE?



By using praise that labels specific positive behaviors and skills, you can grow and sustain these in the classroom.

For example, the student who is recognized for doing a good job taking turns is likely to take turns in the future.

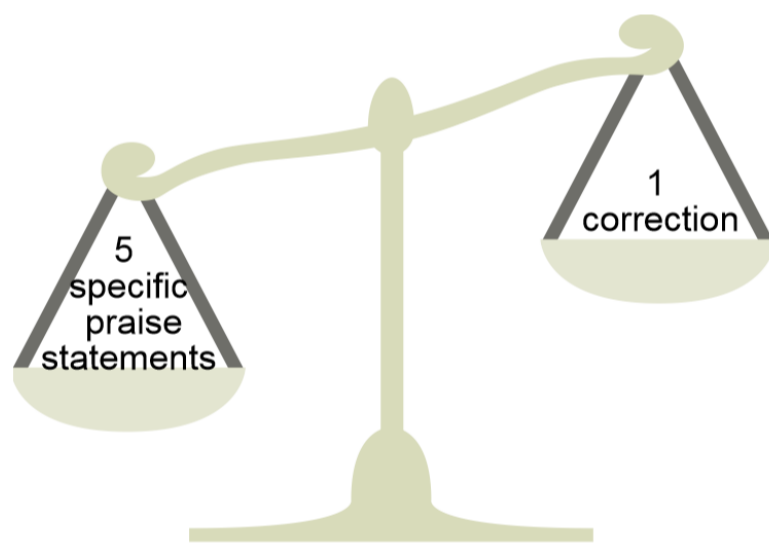
Specific praise both grows students' skills and makes the day more pleasant and rewarding for teachers.

## 3 RATIO OF PRAISE

It is important to use praise frequently and consistently.

Use a 5:1 ratio of specific praise to corrections.

This ratio ensures that praise is consistent enough to teach positive behaviors while discouraging disruptive behaviors.



## 4 TIPS TO HELP YOU USE PRAISE



Post a list of skills and behaviors that you want to encourage in your classroom.



Place praise reminders around your classroom, like on the board.



Audio or video record your class and keep track of how many times you use praise. Track growth over time.



Ask a trusted friend or colleague to observe one of your lessons and give you feedback about your use of specific praise.



Reward yourself for working hard to use specific praise consistently!

## 5 REWARDS OF PRAISE



Remember, use of praise has been shown to increase children's positive skills and behaviors in the classroom.

So get out there and offer lots of specific praise!

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