



USE WITH:

Individual students, small group, or whole class



GRADE LEVEL:

Upper elementary, middle school, or high school



CONTEXT:

Remote friendly

EDUCATOR PRACTICE

Focus on 3 Types of Praise

Build relationships with students by making effective praise part of your teaching practice.

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Description:

Read about the power of praise in the classroom and how to praise your students most effectively. By giving effective praise, you can boost student trust, self-efficacy, and a sense of belonging.

Est. time to complete:
10 minutes

Steps:

1. Read the article, "[The Power of Effective Praise: A Guide for Teachers](#)." Explore the resources linked in the article.
2. Think about the type of praise you most commonly give your students. How often do you use effort-based praise (focusing on the effort a student has shown) and behavior-specific praise (focusing on what students have done correctly)?
3. Print or save the downloadable resource, "7 Ways to Praise Students." If possible, display it on your desk, computer desktop, or another high-visibility spot.
4. Write down specific, positive behaviors that help students thrive socially and academically in your classroom. Refer back to this list and the downloadable resource when helpful.
5. Make sure to praise students for their effort, not just for the outcomes you see.

6. Throughout each day, give effective—and genuine—praise. Also, take note of who you praise. Does it vary by personality type, gender, or race? How can you make sure all students in your class hear affirming words from you that feel true?
7. At the end of each day, take five minutes to reflect on your notes.
8. After two weeks, look at your notes and do a deeper reflection. How has your use of praise changed? How has that change affected your students, including their work, their self-esteem, and your relationship with them? Look for patterns to help you improve your praise. Are there students you're praising too much or too little? Make a plan to ensure that you're using praise equitably.
9. Continue to track your use of praise. Aim to make meaningful praise a natural part of your teaching practice.

Tips for Educators:

- You can also teach your students how to praise each other. Together you can make effective praise a part of your classroom culture.
- When praising students, try to be genuine and specific. While generic praise can mean well, being precise about what a student has done to impress you lets them know that they are seen and helps them feel supported.

Inspired by:

1. Floress et al. (2017). Praise research trends and future directions: Characteristics and teacher training. *Behavioral Disorders*, 43(1), 227-243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0198742917704648>

Related Materials:

The Power of Effective Praise: A Guide for Teachers

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/classroom-management/the-power-of-effective-praise-a-guide-for-teachers>