Behavior Specific Praise

Behavior Interventions in the Classroom

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Response Strategy: Behavior Specific Praise

Prevent	Teach	Respond
What can we do to prevent problem behaviors from occurring in the first place?	How can we use effective teaching techniques to teach new and replacement behaviors?	How can we respond to behaviors in ways to reinforce school appropriate behaviors? How do we respond in ways that do not reinforce the problem behavior and prevent further escalation of behavior?

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Behavior Specific Praise

- Provides learners with specific, positive verbal feedback indicating approval of a social or academic behavior

- Evidence-based classroom management strategy that improves learner behavior by letting the learner know **exactly** what she or he is doing to meet the behavioral expectations

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Example and Non-Example

- Scenario: Anita is sitting quietly, listening to the teacher's lesson

- Example of Behavior Specific Praise: Anita, thank you for looking at me and listening during the lesson."

- Non-Example: "Good job, Anita."

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Deceptively Simple

- In a 2017 study, Scott, Hirn & Cooper conducted 6,752 observations in Pre-K through High School settings

- Rate of behavior specific praise per minute:

  - Elementary: .007/minute

  - Middle School : .004/minute

  - High School: .005/minute

Steps You Can Take

- Determine your present rate of behavior specific praise

- Develop a plan that includes a specific, measurable and observable goal and self-management strategies to increase your use of behavior specific praise – write these down

- Follow your plan, collect data to monitor your impact and adjust your plan as needed

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Activity

- Take 30 seconds to brainstorm self-management strategies that you might use to increase your use of behavior specific praise

- When I say "Go," start by typing a response in the chat box and hit enter – keep going until I say, "Stop"

- Scroll back through the list and identify one strategy that another participant put in the chat box that you had not thought of and might use

- Be prepared to share out