

# Behavior Specific Praise

Creating a positive school climate and safe classroom environments where students feel connected to a caring adult can begin with the simple act of acknowledging appropriate behavior. In the following materials, we will learn more about the low-intensity strategy of using behavior-specific praise. Using praise statements is most likely a part of every teacher's repertoire of behavioral strategies as a readily-available classroom resource. The form of praise that has been proven to be most effective is behavior-specific praise, or praise statements that include reference to the specific behavior for which the student is being recognized. Behavior-specific praise statements are statements that praise the student and clearly state what desirable behavior has been performed, such as "Bob, great job showing your work on your math homework" or "I like the way you pushed in your chair as we got ready to go to lunch. That keeps the walkways safe." Behavior-specific praise can be used to acknowledge the appropriate behavior of an individual student or multiple students engaging in academic and non-academic tasks. It is a simple and effective strategy that is cost-free and time-efficient. In these materials you will learn more about behavior-specific praise, why it is effective, the research supporting the use of behavior-specific praise, the benefits and challenges, and how to evaluate treatment integrity and social validity.