

CI3T Reinforcement and the Value of Behavior Specific Praise in High School

My name is Jacob Larson and I teach at _____. I teach special education and English and the student I'm thinking of I'll call her Mary. Mary's a student who has pretty moderate to sometimes severe emotional disorder disabilities and is rarely very motivated by things. She's threatened to drop out when she turns 18 and is really down on herself sometimes. Toward the beginning of the year when I noticed on a couple occasions when she was actively doing some things somewhere that she was supposed to do when she normally just sits down and refused to do anything off and just kind of mess with your phone. If tried to correct that it often it turns into a kind of blowing up situation. So she started making things making an effort on a couple things and I told her on the side on a couple occasions and said you did what you really ought to do and he hand a student a token said you know what I've noticed this and I notice it when you do these things you seem to be a little bit happier and a little bit more proud of yourself and I just want to let you know that I really admire that I think that's something you should continue and I saw a noticeable change after that. Who's to say if it was specifically the tickets for the praise or maybe a combination of those two things with something else going on in her life change, but I have noticed a positive change. I have noticed a difference, it's been on the independent level with the students. Students who are maybe a little bit embarrassed by getting a ticket if I'm pulling them aside and talking to them one-on-one you know if you make your comment about why are giving them praise sincere they respond to all that and you do tend to notice a difference on an independent level. It's pretty easy to recognize positive behaviors and give them to them on the spot. Also in an English class I have paraprofessionals in. sometimes I'll send a signal to one of them and they'll usually know exactly what I'm talking about, needing praise and write something up and hand it to them.