

Positive verbal feedback that identifies the behavior.

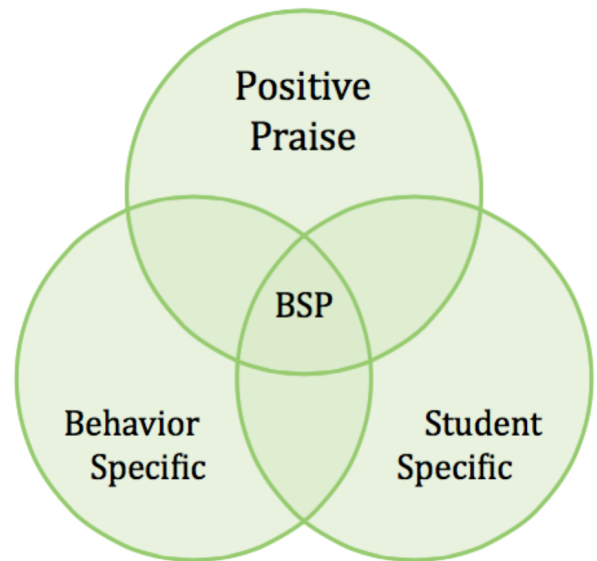


BEHAVIOR SPECIFIC PRAISE

Praise is a powerful tool. General praise can be reinforcing for some students, but praise is most effective when it is specific to the student's behavior. Behavior Specific Praise (BSP) gives students specific and positive verbal feedback that encourages or approves an academic or social behavior. By letting students know exactly what they are doing correctly through BSP, their chance of engaging in that desired behavior in the future increases.

BSP Should Be:

1. A description of a desired **Behavior** (social or academic).
2. **Specific** to the student.
3. A positive **Praise** statement.



Be Careful Of...

- Pairing a BSP with a redirection or reprimand. Avoid words like, "but."
- Just repeating the student's answer.
- Vague words like "paying attention" or "working hard."

Examples

- "I like the way you are sitting quietly."
- "Nice job talking with you partner, you made some great points."
- "Excellent job writing that response, it was very thorough."
- "I like how you took your time answering those questions."

Non-Examples

- "Yes, that is the number 2."
- "Good job."
- "You are working hard."
- "Your paying attention nicely."
- "I like the way you are sharing with you partner, but you need to speak up louder."
- "Excellent, now work hard."

BEHAVIOR SPECIFIC PRAISE

When implemented correctly, BSP increases a student's attention to task, level of active engagement, on-task behavior, and increased academic responses. Further, as students begin to understand the behavioral expectations, they also begin to build a sense of confidence.



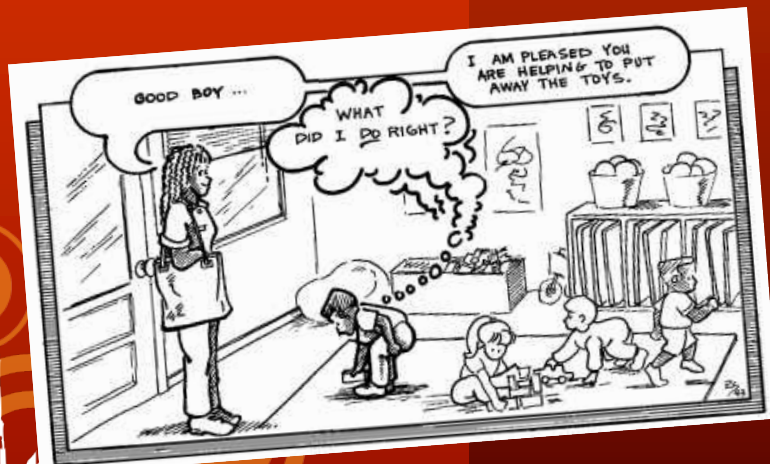
How Much?

A 4:1 ratio of BSP to reprimand is best.

About 6 BSP statements every 15 minutes is also recommended.

Helpful Tips

- ~ Keep a tally
- ~ Make a BSP goal for yourself
- ~ Use post-it notes to remind yourself to use BSP.



Steps to BSP

1 Gain Attention

- Say students name
- Get down at eye level
- Make eye contact

3 Identify the Behavior

- "sitting quietly"
- "talking with your peer"
- "writing your response"

2 Deliver Praise

- "I like..."
- "Good job..."
- "Excellent..."

4 Neutral/Positive Affect

- Ensure your tone and body language is neutral and/or positive.

5 Wait Time

- 3 seconds
- Wait before placing another demand or giving a redirection cue
- Avoid giving a BSP and the using the word "but" in the same sentence