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Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Supports Technical Assistance Center  
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## Behavior-Specific Praise

Behavior-specific Praise differs from general praise (“good job”) statements. Behavior-specific praise can reinforce new skills and encourage more of the behavior in the future. It is also an important part of maintaining a supportive relationship with students.

### Elementary Positive Behavior-Specific Feedback

“Great job, Emma, I noticed you shared your crayons with your classmates. This helps everyone feel included.”

“Excellent, Liam, I saw you raised your hand before speaking. This helps create a respectful environment.”

“Ava, I noticed you stayed focused during the entire lesson. This really helps you understand the material better. You should be proud!”

“Fantastic, Noah! You helped clean up after the activity. This really helps keep our classroom tidy.”

“Thank you for using the 5-finger breathing strategy when you were feeling upset. That helps you calm your mind and body before getting back to your worksheet.”

“Wow, Sophia, I noticed you waited patiently in today's lunch line. This helps create a safe environment. Keep it up!”

“I appreciate how you stayed focused during the activity. That was persistent of you!”

“I noticed you helped your classmate with their project. That was very kind and responsible of you.”

*Great job, \_\_\_\_ (student's name). I noticed you \_\_\_\_ (behavior expectation). That helps \_\_\_\_ (positive outcome).*

### Secondary Positive Behavior-Specific Feedback

“Excellent participation in the discussion today, Alex. Your insights were valuable and heard because you raised your hand. You should be proud!”

“I appreciate how persistent you were in completing your assignment on time and with detail. Taylor, keeping this up shows that you are full of grit and maturity!”

“Thank you for helping to organize the group project, Jordan. Your leadership skills create a scholarly environment in this classroom.”

"You showed great perseverance in solving that difficult problem, Casey. Being kind to yourself and others is challenging. You rock!"

"Your respectful behavior during the guest speaker's presentation was exemplary, Morgan. This helps our school be a place that people enjoy coming to."

"I appreciate how you completed your assignment on time and with great detail. Keep up the good work!"

"You showed great perseverance in solving that difficult problem. Well done!"

*Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ (behavior expectation). It demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_ (positive character trait).*

## Considerations

- Aim for about six praise statements every 15 minutes (Iris Center, n.d.)
- Focus on the effort rather than the ability
- Vary behavior-specific praise statements from individual, group, and whole class
- Demonstrate genuine respect when making behavior-specific praise statements

## Practice

Behavior-Specific Praise Statement	When I might use this

## References

Iris Center. (n.d.). Fundamental skill sheet: Behavior-specific praise.

<https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/bwrl/mdm0/~edisp/mde034049.pdf>

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