

February 2016 Teaching Tip



**Green Light
Education**
A new perspective



“Raise the level of Praise”

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As teachers, we see two types of student behavior: 1) actions we want to encourage and 2) actions we want to discourage. Typically, we react most vigorously to the second kind of behavior. We spend a lot of energy trying to stop various types of student actions. The problem with this approach is that it teaches students the best way to get attention is to misbehave.

Alternatively, try reacting to the first type of behavior. If possible ignore – or at least spend less energy dealing with – students who act out. Instead, go out of your way to praise any action you’d like to see more of. Make sure you’re very specific about what you’re praising for. Don’t just say “good job!”. Instead say:

“I appreciate you how well you were sharing your ideas with your team.”

“Thank you for your answer. I really liked the way you explained your thinking.”

“Well done for staying focused – especially when people at your table were talking.”

“Excellent listening. I noticed you really paying attention when your partner was talking about how they solved the problem.”

“Thank you so much for asking. I bet lots of other students were wondering about that too.”

Keep it simple. When you see good behavior, don’t just smile and enjoy it. Let the student know that you noticed and explicitly praise their actions. Eventually, your students will learn the best way to attention in your classroom is to behave well.

Website of interest this month:

<http://www.isixsigma.com/training/training-materials-aids/seven-intelligences-enhance-six-sigma-training/>

Discusses how the idea of the seven intelligences can be specifically used to increase a teacher’s effectiveness.



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