Accentuate the Positive!

Improving Student Performance Through the Use of Positive Feedback

Session Outcomes:
- Be able to differentiate among four types of feedback and the function of each type
- Learn the recommended guidelines for implementing positive reinforcement in your classroom

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The Power of Feedback

Hattie & Timperley (2007)

Feedback is information... that reduces the discrepancy between what is understood and what is meant to be understood.

Types of Feedback

Positive

General

"Good job" "Nice work" "Well done" "Yes"
Contributes to a positive environment and relationship, but insufficient to change behavior or foster learning

Specific

"Good job using transitions in the body of your essay" "Nice work underlining the supporting details" "Well done coming up with a solution your group could all support" "Yes! You immediately started your bell work!"
Identifies the successful action and increases the likelihood of future success

Corrective

Specific

"Your essay needs to have transitions in the body" "Please go back and underline the supporting details" "Your group needs to come up with a solution everyone can support" "Remember, immediately begin your bell work."
Identifies the error and provides information about how to be successful

Negative

"Far from Proficient" "Incomplete" "Shhhhhh!" "Susan!" "No"
Identifies there is a problem, but not accompanied by instruction or replacement

Your Turn!

Number off 1-4.

Find your poster, and as a group, come up with at least 3 examples for each category.

Be ready to Gallery Walk in 5 minutes.

5 Minutes

Positive reinforcement is one of the most basic, simple, and effective of all teaching strategies.
~Dr. Terry Scott (2017)

What is Positive Reinforcement?

Person engages in a behavior…

Smiles and says, "Good morning."

Correctly works out a math problem.

Posts a picture of new haircut on Instagram.

Takes out the garbage and loads the dishwasher.

Something is added to the environment…

Neighbor smiles and says, "Good morning to you as well."

Teacher responds with, "You got it! Excellent example of showing your thinking."

Followers on Instagram comment or like the post.

Parent says, "Thank you. That was super helpful. I appreciate it."

Result

Behavior is maintained or increased in the future.

189,983 views

Positive Reinforcement in the Classroom

Verbal praise is the most prevalent and relevant manner of positive reinforcement in the classroom and during instruction.

Dr. Terry Scott (2017)

Guidelines for Positive Reinforcement in the Classroom

1. Use the least amount necessary to increase behavior.
2. Be very specific about the behavior being praised, and use the student's name.
3. Deliver in a genuine manner and place the focus on the student behavior.
4. Begin instruction with a positive feedback immediately and for every instance of positive behavior.
5. Fade feedback from most to least, and then from frequent to infrequent as student demonstrates success.

1. Use the least amount necessary to increase behavior

Least ⇻ Most… facial expressions, gestures, verbal praise, public praise, certificates, tokens, tangibles

CONGRATULATIONS,
CLAIRE SARMAN
FINE ARTS STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Homework Pass!!

Redeem for one assignment

Name:_____

Assignment: _____

Date Used: _____

2. Be very specific and use the student's name

James, you stayed focused on the problem and developed a working solution even when it was really challenging.

Great example of using your resources and being a learner!

3. Deliver in a genuine manner - focus on the behavior

Way to go, 4th period!

You all have the top spot in the 10th grade for attendance and coming to class on time.
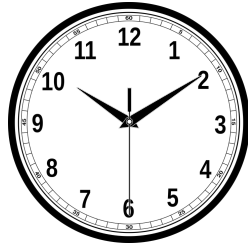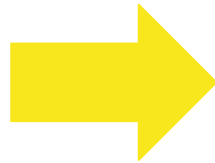
Keep it up!

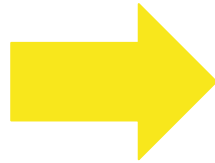Look at that! Nice job working through the problems and completing the assignment.

Great example of being a learner!

Thank you, Justin!

You got started right away and drew a picture to show your thinking.

5. Fade from most to least, then from frequent to infrequent

Great job guys!

Surprise!

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Examples of Positive Feedback

You remembered to stop at your locker on the way. Awesome.

You have your assignment. That's really responsible. Thank you.

Great job getting to work right away.

You raised your hand and waited patiently. Thank you. That was very respectful.

You kept working even though the assignment was challenging. Thank you for showing such great effort.

You were very responsible in returning the note that went home yesterday. Thank you.

I appreciate how you helped your neighbor find the (assignment, page, paragraph, etc.). That was kind.

But what about when students DON'T do what they're supposed to do?

Examples of Corrective Feedback

Please raise your hand if you want to contribute or have a question.

It's important to say, "Excuse me," if you accidentally bother someone.

Be sure to stop at your locker before class to be prepared.

Please focus your attention on the _____ so you will be able to get the information you need.

It's important to be safe by keeping all chair legs on the floor. Thank you.

Remember to begin your bell-ringer right away when you come in the room. Thank you.

Then follow it with Positive Specific Feedback!

Communicating with Others About Positive Feedback

Why should I recognize students for doing what they should do anyway?

They should know _ _ _ _ _ by now! Why do I need to teach it and bother with this positive feedback?

EVERYONE wants to be recognized and appreciated.

"Increase the likelihood..."

Dr. Tim Lewis

You can't make kids learn, and you can't make kids behave.

All you can do is create the environment to increase the likelihood students will learn – increase the likelihood students will behave.