# Behavior Specific Praise

General praise can be reinforcing for some students, but the most powerful praise is specific to a student's behavior. Behavior-specific praise (BSP) provides students specific, positive verbal feedback around their social or academic behavior.

BSP Should Be:

1. A description of a desired **Behavior** (social or academic)
2. **Specific** to the student or class
3. A positive **Praise** statement
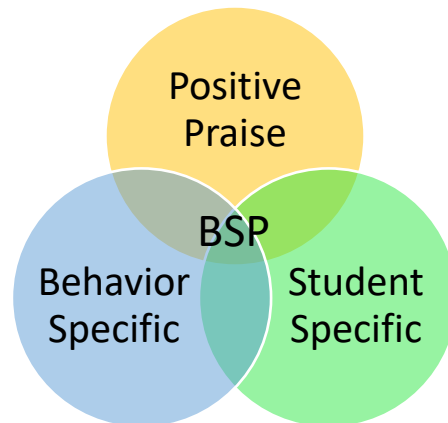
Examples of BSP	Non-examples of BSP
Suzie, I like how you raised your hand to let me know you had something to say!	Great job!
Class, excellent job walking down the hall quietly.	Thank you.
Group A, I like that you are sharing your materials with each other.	No, sir!
Jonathan, thank you for helping Jordan find his jacket.	Excellent!
Boys, I love the way you are being good sports.	Stop that!

How to Implement BSP in the Classroom

First, think about the behaviors you would like to see in your classroom (e.g., listening while others are speaking, giving your best effort). Write down a list of specific behaviors that will help students continue to progress academically and behaviorally in your classroom (e.g., pay attention to the speaker, raise your hand and ask questions when confused). Then use this list to begin noticing and acknowledging student behavior. You may post some of these positive behavioral expectations around your classroom as a reminder for you to praise those specific behaviors. This can also serve as a reminder for students to display the desired, specific, appropriate behaviors.

Ways to Remember to Use BSP in the Classroom

- REMIND YOURSELF WITH WRITTEN PROMPTS (E.G., ON THE BOARD, ON POST-IT NOTES, IN YOUR LESSON PLANS)
- CREATE LAMINATED CARDS OF BSP STATEMENTS AND LOCATE THEM IN VISIBLE PLACES THROUGHOUT THE CLASSROOM
- SET A GOAL FOR YOURSELF AND TALLY THE NUMBER OF BSP STATEMENTS YOU MAKE IN A LESSON
- MONITOR YOUR EFFORTS BY RECORDING LESSONS TO DETEREMINE WHETHER YOU ARE CONSISTENTLY USING BSP