

Toolkit Tip for Afterschool Teachers: Using Praise to Prevent Misbehavior

Misbehavior can be a response to academic failure and social isolation. Children's behavior may improve if they are allowed to experience success and work on things they enjoy. Remember to praise students when you see them exhibiting appropriate behavior. Make sure the form of praise you use is authentic and appropriate for the child's age. Saying, "Good job, Johnny" is not really an effective form of praise. Be specific and make sure Johnny knows exactly what you are praising him for. A better example would be, "Johnny, I really like the way you are sitting, quietly waiting for Lisa to finish with the scissors." Also, remember that middle and high school students sometimes don't like to be praised publicly. In order for praise to work for these age groups, talking to the student privately might be more beneficial.

From page 166 of *Beyond the Bell: A Toolkit for Creating Effective Afterschool Programs (3rd ed.)* as quoted by Learning Point Associates