

Giving Effective Praise

- Praise is when you tell children that you like the way they're behaving.
- Praise works best when you recognise, promote and describe the behaviour you like.
- Encouragement is praise for effort – for example, when you can see the child is trying their best.
- You can praise and encourage your child at any age.
- Rewards reinforce the behaviour you want, but it's best not to overuse them.
- Praising positive behaviour can develop intrinsic motivation in children.
- Praise immediately.
- Use 'Praise for Being' (tells the child we value them for being who they are) and 'Praise for Doing' (tells the child that we have acknowledged and appreciate their efforts).
- Give your undivided attention.
- Move close to the child – bend, or get down to their level, seek eye contact.
- Look pleased, smile use a warm, genuine tone of voice and gestures e.g. thumb up.
- Be specific – describe what you like or admire – 'label' your praise, eg 'Well done for putting your shoes on'.
- Give praise for trying and effort.
- Seek the child's opinion.
- Give pride to the child: "You deserve to feel proud of yourself".
- Praise as much as you can but be genuine. Recognise small steps.
- Praise increases self esteem.
- Use praise consistently.
- Praise in front of other people.
- Model self praise.



Some children miss out on praise and all the good feelings; confidence, pride, motivation, desire to try – that praise gives us. All children need praise.

Early Years SEND Team, Early Years, Inclusion and Childcare,
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, GLENFIELD, Leicestershire, LE3 8RF
Telephone: (0116) 305 7136 Email: eysenisadmin@leics.gov.uk