

Ways to Give Praise & Positive Attention



Watch for opportunities to use positive attention and praise throughout the day

This includes play, meals, transitions, and routine care such as changing diapers, putting on coats, and washing hands.



Ask questions to create opportunities for a child to receive positive attention

At dinner, model table manners and provide an opportunity for praise by saying, "Would you please pass me the bread? Thank you for passing me the bread! You're such a good helper."



Talk about the specific behavior the child engaged in that you want to see more of

Positive attention can be given for specific behaviors, such as trying new things, playing nicely with other children, communicating with sounds or gestures, and helping.



Notice when a child is using communication, then give attention and respond

When a child points to a favorite doll, label the doll and offer it to the child.



Learn what types of positive attention the child prefers

Use the child's personal preferences to encourage them. A child might prefer a smile, hug, pat on the back, or high five. Sometimes, playing with the child is most valuable.

Positive Attention

Pay attention, respond, and make positive comments to children when they use vocalizations, words, and gestures.



When you notice and talk about positive behaviors, that child and other children in the room have the chance to learn what is expected of them. It is especially important for children who often need to be redirected to hear when they are doing something positive, like listening, sharing, or helping.