

Praise Case Example

Student: Zoey

Grade: 3rd

Presenting Problems: Interruptions and Off-Task Behavior

Intervention: Praise

Background

While her teacher is giving directions and helping other students, Zoey often blurts out, chats with her peers, and fidgets with items in her backpack. As a result, Zoey and her classmates regularly miss important directions and take longer than anticipated on simple class assignments. Zoey's teacher has repeatedly asked her to raise her hand and to stay focused, but the problem has not improved all year.

Getting Started

Identify specific behavior(s) you would like the student to demonstrate more often.

Zoey's teacher would like her to raise her hand when she has a question or comment. She also wants Zoey to stay on task when doing independent work. She thinks about what it would look like if Zoey were on task and what skills she would like to see Zoey improve. She decides that she would like for her to get started on her independent work without being asked, participate in class discussions, and complete classwork.

Assess what kind of praise the student prefers. This can be based on past experience praising the student or can be done by asking the student if they prefer praise to be subtle or normal.

Zoey is very outgoing. She likes to read to the class, share stories, and has seemingly enjoyed receiving verbal praise in the past. Taking this into consideration, her teacher has decided to first try verbal praise with Zoey.

Implementation

Example 1

The teacher is going over directions for an in-class assignment about designing family trees when Zoey shouts out: *"I have a baby sister! I have a baby sister!"*

The teacher decides to actively ignore this blurt out and continue with her directions. Zoey realizes that she hasn't gotten the reaction she hoped for, so she decides to raise her hand. Her teacher immediately calls on her.



Teacher: "Thanks for raising your hand, Zoey, what would you like to share with us?"

Zoey: *"I have a baby sister!"*

Teacher: *Thank you for sharing that with us, I am sure you are a great big sister. You did a nice job drawing your sister on your family tree!"*

Example 2

The teacher has just finished reading a story to the class and has asked her students to get out their reading workbook and begin answering the questions on page 4. She decides to praise the students around Zoey who have gotten out their workbooks. Zoey notices and pulls out her workbook and gets started on her work.

Teacher: "I love how Zoey has gotten started on her work!"