

Pivotal Practices in Early Childhood: Positive Attention

What It Is:

Positive attention is an evidence-based strategy that builds strong and caring relationships with children and encourages desired behaviors.

How To Do It:

- 1. Notice Positive Behavior Quickly**
Pay attention and watch for children engaging in desired behavior
- 2. Show You Are Pleased About the Behavior**
Say the child's name, smile and make eye contact
- 3. Say What the Child Did**
In a warm vocal tone, use short, clear words like: *"I see you sharing your toys with a friend"*
- 4. Be Specific and Descriptive**
Describe the desired actions you see:
- 5. Give Attention Often at a 5:1 Ratio**
Look for chances to complement positive actions throughout the day and offer at least five positive descriptive statements to each correction
- 6. Match Feedback to Effort**
Notice and celebrate small steps towards a larger goal
- 7. Pair with Non-Verbal Feedback**
A warm smile and nod, high-five or thumbs up intensifies the impact

Ready, Set, Implement:

Use these ideas and examples for inspiration:

Positive Behaviors	Positive Attention
Following Directions	"You listened right away when it was time to clean up"
Helping Others	"Thank you for helping your friend pick up the blocks"
Trying Something New	"I saw you working so hard on that puzzle"
Waiting Patiently	"Thanks for waiting so quietly"

Corrective Statement:	Five Positive Statements:
"Remember, you need to put your toys on the shelf when it's time to clean up"	"I see you putting the crayons back in the bin" "High five! You cleaned up the blocks" "Thanks for hanging your coat up to keep the cubby area clean" "Wow! Throwing your towel in the trash can helps with cleaning up" "Thank you for putting the bin on the shelf. That's cleaning up the room"

Cut out the APP strip and place it in visible spots. These prompts serve as reminders to use the practice regularly and consistently.



Action Practice Prompts (APPs): Positive Attention



See

**Watch for and
Notice Desired
Behavior**



Say

**Name the
Specific Positive
Behavior**



Repeat

**Maintain a 5:1
Praise-To-
Correction
Ratio**