
Exercise 4-4: Recognizing Effective Praise

INSTRUCTIONS: Place an "E" by examples of effective praise and an "I" by examples of ineffective praise.

For ineffective praise, indicate what is wrong and how you would change it to effective praise.

- ___ 1. I'm glad you remembered to bring your blanket to Grandma's. That was good thinking.
- ___ 2. I'm glad you remembered to go potty. I hope you won't forget next time.
- ___ 3. For such a little boy, you did very well.
- ___ 4. The room looks really nice. You put your blocks away, the puzzle away, and the books away.
- ___ 5. (To a small child trying to get his pants on, but not managing) Boy, you sure gave those pants a workout. Putting your clothes on is hard. I'm glad you tried to dress yourself this morning.
- ___ 6. Well, now you look like a human being without the oatmeal in your hair.
- ___ 7. I see you are sharing your big blocks with Ricky. That's nice. I'll bet he was happy to play with them.
- ___ 8. It was so nice when you played quietly before lunch. Could you play quietly now?
- ___ 9. (To child who has come in after putting his trike away) Good job!
- ___ 10. (To child who has brought in a long slimy worm that disgusts his parent) Yes, Suzy, it is a pretty worm.

ANSWERS

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| 1. <i>Effective, specific.</i> | 7. <i>Effective, specific.</i> |
| 2. <i>Ineffective. Negative comparison: I hope you won't forget next time.</i> <i>Change: I'm glad you remembered to go potty.</i> | 8. <i>Ineffective (if it is the first mention after lunch).</i> <i>Delayed: The children should have been praised before lunch.</i> |
| 3. <i>Ineffective. Negative comparison: "Such a little boy" implies that the job was not really satisfactory.</i> <i>Change: Nice job!</i> | <i>Change: You kids really have been playing quietly.</i> |
| 4. <i>Effective, specific.</i> | 9. <i>Effective, general. (Praise specific behavior, not general)</i> |
| 5. <i>Effective, specific (for trying, not for success).</i> | 10. <i>Ineffective. Dishonest: the parent did NOT feel the worm was pretty.</i> <i>Change: My, that worm really is long.</i> |
| 6. <i>Ineffective. Negative comparison: You didn't really look human (good) before.</i> <i>Change: You really look clean.</i> | |