Big Idea/ Topic
Behavior Specific Praise

Standard Alignment
Health Standard 7: Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

Instructional Design
Define Simply
Behavior specific praise is a statement of praise given to a student or group of students demonstrating classroom expected behaviors. It is a very simple and feasible tool that can help to promote successful student behaviors in the classroom. When teachers find ways to provide positive attention to students demonstrating expected behaviors, the expected behaviors will likely increase and become more routine throughout the classroom. Examples include:

- “Ginger, you are really trying your best. Thank you! You are being an active participant.”
- “Keith, you listened the first time. Great job! That is very respectful.”
- “Great job completing your work, Rajni! You are being responsible.”

Model/Demonstrate with Strategies
Behavior specific praise helps to inform students of successful classroom behaviors and gives attention to the expected behaviors. There are 4 steps to using behavior specific praise.

1) Identify the student or group by name
2) include a term of praise
3) describe/ acknowledge specific behavior being recognized
4) link to the school wide behavior expectations.

Examples of strategies for using behavior specific praise include:

- Whole class compliment: “Let’s give Bailey a big hand for doing such a good job. He is showing accountability.”
- Calling on a student: “I like how Gabby is ready to listen. She is demonstrating respect.”

Non examples –

- “Brian is sitting in his seat.” Or saying, “Good job!” without connecting to a school rule.
- Giving a token without saying anything.
- Only acknowledging for “above and beyond” behavior.
For more information and video examples visit:
The Classroom Checkup
The Iris Center

**Practice in All Relevant Settings**
Behavior-specific praise is most effective when delivered more frequently than corrective statements. We recommend a 5:1 ratio of positive feedback to corrective feedback. For students who have experienced trauma it is recommended a 14:1 ratio of positive to corrective.
Tips for implementation:
- Deliver behavior specific praise immediately following a desired behavior or as soon after as possible.
- Deliver praise using a sincere tone of voice.
- Self-monitor your use of praise by keeping a tally of praise statements to reprimands during a class period. Classroom Data Collection Tool

**Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement**
Teachers will positively acknowledge an appropriate behavior. Behavior specific praise will let students know specifically what they did correctly and gives them positive attention. Teachers can also utilize their school-wide acknowledgement system (give tokens, tickets, points, etc.) to reinforce the expected behavior. To be effective, praise must be age and developmentally appropriate. Elementary school students may respond to enthusiastic praise that occurs in front of the entire class, while middle or high school students may prefer subtle praise statements.

**Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach**
Teachers should consistently monitor their ratio of positive to corrective feedback. (Classroom Data Collection Tool) When there is an increase in disruptive behaviors, office referrals or the teacher sees the need, the behavior expectations may need to be retaught and modeled for success.

**Evidence of Student Success**
- Desirable behaviors will increase while negative, undesirable behaviors will decrease with the use of behavior specific praise. 80% or more of students should meet the expected behaviors at the tier 1 level.

**Student Learning Supports**
- This is a universal lesson plan designed for tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 implementation. Behavior specific praise is an effective researched practice for struggling students in the MTSS process.
- For some students, verbal praise in front of others may be considered aversive or even stigmatizing. To meet the needs of these students, you can provide praise in a one-on-one setting or in a nonverbal manner (i.e., through a note).
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<th>Engaging Families</th>
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<td>- Families can have access to your classroom matrix and set a goal to of creating a 5:1 positive to corrective statements in the home setting.</td>
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