



Question:

Do teachers compliment (praise) students enough?

Andie's Answer:

I recently attended a day-long workshop on rewarding and recognizing students. Now, you know that I am a middle school teacher, and my students are not really interested in what I think of them--or that is what I thought. This workshop changed the way I thought about praise. The workshop provided information on peoples' responses to compliments and criticisms. Look at the chart below for a summary of the workshop information.

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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 compliments to 1 criticism | Positive response |
| 2 compliments to 1 criticism | Neutral response |
| 1 compliment to 1 criticism | Negative response |

What does this mean to you as a teacher? Think about your classroom. When you provide a criticism to one of your students, do you think about and plan to give three compliments to that student? Probably not. Most of us are so focused on correcting behavior or bad performance that we do not reward and recognize good performance. This workshop really made me think!

I needed a way to reward students for good performance, whether the performance was academic or behavioral or whether it was just for being a good team member in class. I should have known that my friends at TeacherReady.net would have the perfect thing. I purchased some tri-lighters that say, "You make a difference!" When I received the tri-lighters, I showed them to my students and explained that I would be "awarding" them to special people. My students could not wait for the first award. It went to a young man, Nick, who was exceptionally kind to a new student who was not part of "the group." This one act on my part changed the behavior and attitude of all of my students. I have since awarded 22 of the tri-lighters for exceptional academic change, for change in behavior, and for a variety of other things. I have found that the behaviors I reward and recognize get repeated.



Join me and recognize students for making a difference every day in our classrooms! It makes those days a celebration!!!!