



Effort or “process” praise includes praising for engagement, perseverance, strategies, and improvement to build a hardy dose of motivation (Dweck, 2007). Using Reinforcers is a practice that supports process praise by providing positive cues in response to a student behavior. It encourages the behavior and makes it more likely to occur in the future. Reinforcers allow teachers to acknowledge and focus on students’ active participation, positive behavior, effort, or contributions to the learning environment at any point during the school day. Reinforcers can be tangible items, such as stickers or small prizes, or intangible motivators, such as verbal praise, social activities or special privileges. Different reinforcers may be used to motivate diverse learners, as it is important to the effectiveness of this practice that the reinforcer be personalized for students.

- Identify the desired behavior/outcome (prior to the lesson or as it occurs in the lesson).
- Determine what reinforcer will motivate students to increase or repeat the behavior/outcome.
- Gather the necessary resources (tokens, prizes, stickers, etc.) needed for student motivation if tangible reinforcers are to be used.
- Name the expectation (desired behavior/outcome) to students.
- Model the desired behavior/outcome or highlight the student behavior as it happens.
- Reinforce student(s) when the behavior expectation is met and continue to reinforce the behavior as needed ongoing.
- Post the reinforcers and token system you are using as a visual reminder to the students.



Additional Tools

Project Based Learning

An instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities designed to answer a question or solve a problem, and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom.

Guest Speaker

A speaker who is invited to share firsthand knowledge on a topic that aligns with the learning objective.

For more strategies and/or resources, visit houstonisdpsd.org.



ALERT

When using verbal praise be sincere; students value authenticity.



QUICK TIPS

Be consistent and clear with expectations; mean what you say, and say what you mean.