



How and the Effects of Praising Children

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To praise means that you show your child that you approve of his behavior in a positive way. You do know that your child really does want to please you; they just need to know how to accomplish this task. It's important that we realize that approval is very important to a young child because it can help to reinforce those positive behaviors that we want to instill in them. Also, this can help a child to believe in himself simply because he knows that others believe in him.

We need to remember in order to get positive results; we must use positive words when speaking to children. For example, instead of saying "don't run," we should say, "use your walking feet." When a child is told "don't" do something the only thing that registers in the mind is the word "don't" which means that the child will still probably run. Also, since this is a negative word; you will probably get negative results. We want to send a message of what to do instead of what not to do because this can make a difference in their response. "Remember, the response is usually a result of the approach."

Children will rise to the occasion and reach your expectation when you praise them on by using statements like, "show me how well you can read that," or "show me how well you can play that game." This is an ideal way to get them to perform a task in a successful way. There is a saying, "Treat a person as he is, and he will remain as he is. Treat a person as if he were what he could ultimately be and should be, and he will become what he could and should be." This approach is called the Pygmalion effect or is sometimes called the psychology of a self-fulfilling prophecy. This approach can work for one child or a group of children.

Let's learn to use the rod to guide or reinforce positive behaviors and not use it to hit which will reinforce negative behaviors in our children. You may ask yourself what would be negative about me spanking my child. Well, let me answer that question for you. When you use the rod to spank your child; you are saying to your child (through actions) that it's alright to hit. So, when your child becomes school age they start to hit at school. At first, you get a sticky note on the daily homework folder about the hitting at school. Secondly, you are called on your job to attend a conference about the hitting behavior. Lastly, your child comes home with an envelope stating that he/she has been suspended for three school days for hitting others at school. All of this started when you hit your child thus reinforcing a negative behavior by using a rod.

Here are a few examples of words and phrases you can use to praise your child:

Great job

Neat

I knew you could do it

I love you

A big hug

(How and the Effects of Praising Children Continue)

I like you

Good job

Good for you

Looking good

I'm proud of you

Nice

Nice work

You are a smart boy

You are a smart girl

Bravo!

There are many more positive words and phrases that can be used to praise a child. So, put your thinking cap on and see how many you can come up with. You just might be surprised!

Carswell, Vickie. (2004, May 4). The Effects of Praising Children.

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