

POSITIVE ATTENTION

POSITIVE ATTENTION CAN SOUND LIKE THIS:

"YOU DID A GOOD JOB HOLDING THE DOOR FOR YOUR FRIENDS, EVERYONE GOT OUT SAFELY."



"YOU ARE SHARING THE MARKERS, NOW ALL YOUR FRIENDS CAN COLOUR."



"I NOTICED YOU SMELLED THE CHICKEN CURRY. THAT IS NEW FOR YOU. WHAT DID YOU THINK?"



"YOU ARE SUCH A GREAT KID, I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!"



Why Use Positive Attention?

Children don't learn from their mistakes, they learn from their successes and the way they see themselves through the eyes of their caregivers. When adults pay attention to any behaviour, that behaviour is likely to increase. When we give attention to the behaviours we want to see more of, we will see an increase in that behaviour.

What Is Positive Attention?

Positive Attention is a strategy that helps children know what to expect, motivates a child to continue a desired behaviour and gives the child a feeling of being appreciated. Positive attention describes what the child is doing well and ties the action to an outcome, allowing the child to repeat that behaviour.

How to Implement

Positive Attention must be:

- descriptive or specific to what the child is doing;
- tied to an outcome;
- given immediately after the desired behaviour;
- sincere, authentic and enthusiastic.

When to Use

- Use Positive Attention as often as possible during activities, routines and transitions.
- Use Positive Attention at lunch and group time and when children have to wait for a long time.
- Children need to hear more often what they have done well rather than what they have not done well. When children are praised for attempting a task, they learn the expectations of that task.
- Children feel motivated to continue trying because the act of trying is noticed and appreciated. When children feel appreciated, they continue to try because they are supported by caring adults.