

## Behavior Specific Praise

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### What is BSP

What is and what is not.

What Is It? Behavior-specific praise is a positive statement directed toward a student or group of students that describes a desirable behavior in specific, observable, and measurable terms.

What it is not. A statement made at a student without directly effecting the behavior in specific terms or sarcastically.

For more information on what is and what is not a BSP statement check out.

- ▶ [https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/misc\\_media/fss/pdfs/2018/fss\\_behavioro\\_specific\\_praise.pdf](https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/misc_media/fss/pdfs/2018/fss_behavioro_specific_praise.pdf)

### What is Behavior Specific Praise?

- Behavior Specific Praise (BSP): Praise statements that include reference to the specific behavior for which the student is being recognized (Brophy, 1981; Sutherland, Wehby, & Copeland, 2000)
- Key Components
  - Praise statement must be linked to a behavior
  - Provide feedback specific to the behavior
  - Be sincere
  - Reflect skill level
  - Evaluate effectiveness
  - Praise effort – not ability

General v. Specific

(Haydon, Musti-Rao, 2011, p. 31)

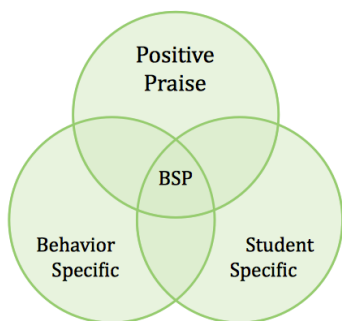


<https://www.slideshare.net/CathrynMonroe/behavior-specific-praise>

### Behavior Specific Praise Studies

## Studies on BSP

There are a lot of studies being done.



<https://guideinc.org/2016/07/04/give-your-program-a-praise-makeover/>

I have found a number of studies being done on how teachers can learn to use BSP more frequently. What I find most concerning about most of them is that they measure how many times a minute a teacher praises a student in the class. I do not know about you all, but I am way too busy when instructing to stop and wonder if I have praised my students five or six times in the last minute. One study even had teachers wearing ear buds on one way radio communication (Ennis, R. P., Royer, D. J., Lane, K. L., & Dunlap, K. D. (2020).) I am not too sure how I would feel having someone telling me what to say while I am in the middle of a lecture

There are studies being done at every level of education from preschool (Gorton, K., Allday, R. A., Lane, J. D., & Ault, M. J. (2021)) to elementary (LaBrot, Z. C., Dufrene, B. A., Whipple, H., McCargo, M., & Pasqua, J. L. (2020)) and secondary (O'Handley, R. D., Olmi, D. J., Dufrene, B. A., Tingstrom, D. H., & Whipple, H. (2020)). The one key aspect of all these studies is how often it is being used and how important BSP is.

### Resources

- 1.) Ennis, R. P., Royer, D. J., Lane, K. L., & Dunlap, K. D. (2020). The Impact of Coaching on Teacher-Delivered Behavior-Specific Praise in Pre-K-12 Settings: A Systematic Review. *Behavioral Disorders, 45*(3), 148-166. <https://doi-org.libproxy.txstate.edu/10.1177/0198742919839221>
- 2.) Gorton, K., Allday, R. A., Lane, J. D., & Ault, M. J. (2021). Effects of Brief Training Plus Electronic Feedback on Increasing Quantity and Intonation of Behavior Specific Praise Among Preschool Teachers. *Journal of Behavioral Education, 1*. <https://doi-org.libproxy.txstate.edu/10.1007/s10864-020-09427->
- 3.) O'Handley, R. D., Olmi, D. J., Dufrene, B. A., Tingstrom, D. H., & Whipple, H. (2020). The Effects of Behavior-Specific Praise and Public Posting in Secondary Classrooms. *Psychology in the Schools, 57*(7), 1097-1115.
- 4.) LaBrot, Z. C., Dufrene, B. A., Whipple, H., McCargo, M., & Pasqua, J. L. (2020). Targeted and Intensive Consultation for Increasing Head Start and Elementary Teachers' Behavior-Specific Praise. *Journal of Behavioral Education, 29*(4), 717. <https://doi-org.libproxy.txstate.edu/10.1007/s10864-019-09342-9>
- 5.) [https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/misc\\_media/fss/pdfs/2018/fss\\_behavioro\\_specific\\_praise.pdf](https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/misc_media/fss/pdfs/2018/fss_behavioro_specific_praise.pdf)

