

*Secondary
Edition!*



CHAMPS

Classroom Management

Tip of the Week

Positive Reinforcement

How does positive feedback help at-risk students and those with high rates of behavioral difficulties?

Behavior is best managed (and shaped) by positive, not punitive, reinforcements. This is especially true for students with several risk factors. Remember, the frequency of positive feedback must far outweigh the frequency of negative feedback. This is important because the behaviors that receive more attention generally increase while those that receive less attention decrease. As a teacher, we must reflect and think:

“What types of behavior am I paying attention to most?”

If attention seeking students do not experience high rates of attention and positive feedback when behaving responsibly, their misbehavior often increases instead. When students who have engaged in misbehavior begin to re-engage in appropriate behavior, be sure to provide a positive form of acknowledgement as soon as possible. Students need to see that the adults on campus notice positive behavior more frequently (and in a better way) than misbehavior. Furthermore, without positive feedback, the corrective feedback you provide only discourages the student.

Students who receive ongoing, specific positive feedback, display increased pro-social behavior, increased academic engagement, and decreased problem behavior.

