

Positive Behavior Narration

Narrating positive behavior in the classroom allows teachers to reinforce their instructions in a constructive way, drawing attention to desired behavior instead of (inadvertently reinforcing) misbehavior.

Effective behavior narration begins by giving clear, step-by-step directions. "When I clap three times, please put your morning work in your folder. Then, put your folder back in your desk. At the end, your pencil should be the only thing on your desk."

After giving directions, identify individuals (or groups) who are following the instructions and briefly describe their actions to the class.

"Darius and Trina are getting started right away." "Ronnie and Jasmine are sliding their folder in the desk" "Jalen and Renee have a pencil on their desk."

During direct instruction and other activities, continually narrate the positive behaviors you see and would like to increase.

"Eyes are over here. Mrs. Jones is over here. Track me". "The people at my table are ready. Austin is ready. Leah is now ready and I appreciate that!"

This creates behavioral momentum, reinforces on task behavior, and prompts compliance with teacher directions. Remember, what you pay attention to grows!

