

TEACHER TALK - ELEMENTARY GRADES

Using Positive Language to Teach Good Behavior



"Not fair! Teachers always tell me what I do wrong. But they never see the good things I do. Not fair!!"

FOR *INDIVIDUAL KIDS*

1. "John, *I like the way* you're ready for worship! I'm sure God is pleased, too!"
2. "Mary, *I like the way* you clean-up after yourself. You're very responsible."
3. "John, *I like the way* you're on time each week. Way-to-go!"
4. "Steve, *I like the way* you wait in line. You must be a real patient person!"
5. "Billy, *I like the way you* pick up the trash. I wish everyone took care of God's house like you do."
6. "Sue Ann, *I like the way* you say "thank you" when you get your refreshments. Where did you get those good manners?"
7. "Jesse, *I like the way you* raise your hand when you want to speak. You are a very considerate person!"
8. "Robert, *I like the way* you sit down when I want everyone to sit and pay attention. I'm glad someone follows instructions!"
9. "Kenny, *I like the way you* always return your permission slips on time. I wish everyone were like you!"
10. "Ashley, *I like the way* you're open and friendly to the newcomers. You really do make them feel comfortable."
11. "Larry, *I like the way* you dress up for worship."
12. "Mark, *thanks for* being polite to the girls during the recreation."
13. "Kimberly, *thanks for* remembering to bring food for the canned food drive. You have a generous heart."
14. "Frank, *thanks for* volunteering to pray. That's the attitude!"
15. "Ginny, *thanks for* helping the new girl be comfortable. I see you talking to her. Keep it up!"
16. "Peter, *thanks for* sharing your Bible with Billy. You're very considerate."
17. "Bob, *thanks for* helping me cleanup. I wish everyone were like you!"

Suggestion: DON'T ALWAYS USE THE GOOD KIDS AS ROLE MODELS. SEEK OUT AND FIND THE GOOD THINGS IN OUR "BEHAVIORALLY CHALLENGED" KIDS.

1. "Johnny, *I like the way you* are not touching things in the classroom. Thank you for listening to what I told you last week."
2. "Mary, *I'm glad you* came back to Sunday School twice in a row.! Keep up the good work! We really do like it when you come."

3. "Joseph, you have a habit of interrupting me when I am talking. *But I like the way that you're* doing *much* better than before. Just try a little harder."
4. Jason, *I like the way you* listened to some of the Bible lesson today. But *I appreciate you* for listening much better than last week. Keep up the good work.

FOR ***TOTAL GROUP***

1. "Class, *I like the way you* all did your devotions last week. That's really great! Give yourselves a pat on the back!"
2. "Class, *I like the way you* all put away your supplies without being told to do it. Everybody, give yourselves a kiss and a big hug!"
3. "Class, I have an announcement to make. *I really like the way you* all cleaned-up after class. I think we're the neatest class in the entire church!"
4. "Class, your attention please! I just want to say that *I really like the way you* worked on the Christmas music. We're going to sound great! Our parents are going to be amazed!"
5. "Girls and boys, I know it's hot today and you're all very tired. But *I like the way* you're handling it. You kids are tough!"
6. "Girls and boys, *I like the way almost all of you* remembered to bring canned food for our canned food drive. Let's try just a little bit harder!"
7. "Girls and boys, *I like the way about half of you* remembered to bring canned food for our canned food drive. Let's keep it up!"
8. "Girls and boys, *I like the way a few of you* remembered to bring canned foods for the canned food drive. Terrific work for those few!"
9. "Timmy, *I like the way* that you remembered to bring food for the canned food drive! Way to go, Timmy!"
10. "Class, *I want to thank you* all for trying the memory verses. Next week let's have everyone give it their best. I know you all can do it."
11. "Class, *I want to thank you* for watching the film so carefully. Now I want to see what you learned from it. So its quiz time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
12. "Boys, *I'd like to congratulate you* on your looooooong cleanup. Next time how 'bout doing it in about half the time?"
13. "Boys, *I'd like to tell you how glad I am* that most of you are doing your best in play. time. Not everyone is a good athlete, just like not everyone is good in art or music or math. The important thing is to try your best and improve just a little each time."
14. "Boys, I'd just like to tell you that *I appreciate it very much* that you're all trying the best you can. We may not win this contest, but that's not the most important thing. I see that you guys are really trying. That's great!"
15. "Girls, *you win my appreciation award for* trying your very, very best in recreation."
16. "Girls, *let me applaud you all for* following instructions!"
17. "Girls, *you win the award for* best cleanup crew. Congratulations!"
18. "Kids, have I told you lately that *I'm having the best time of my life being your teacher?* I really like it when you all worship like that!"
19. "Class, let me take this time to tell you all that *I'm really proud to be your teacher.* You kids are the best!"