



Musketeer Minute

Greenup County Schools



November 2017
Volume 4, Issue 3

Growth Mindset: The Impact of Praise

Every classroom is full of conversations. This talk, whether personal or academic, reveals the mindsets of the teacher and students in this classroom. Praise (in the correct form) is the most important part of these conversations.

Carol Dweck (2006) wrote, “The wrong kind of praise creates self-defeating behavior. The right kind of motivates students to learn.” Praise needs to be specific and focus on what the child can control—Strategy, Effort, and Attitude.

If teachers praise students for their effort we are reinforcing a culture of effort beats talent.

Dr. Spencer Kagan identified three *Benefits of Praise* for students:

1.) *Praise Enhances Performance.* Research shows that eliciting positive emotion prior to performance enhances performance and improves problem solving, enhances creativity, promotes cognitive and linguistic fluidity, and even boosts IQ.

2.) *Praise Enhance Memory.* Memory followed by emotion is more likely to be remembered. Praise following a performance reinforces that performance and makes it more memorable in the future.

3.) *Praise Enhance Class Climate.* When students work in teams, know and care about each other, and frequently give each other praise, the class climate is enjoyable and safe

for students and in turn promotes effort and achievement.

Dr. Kagan also notes that all praise is not always beneficial and offers two cautions:

First, *praising intelligence can create a fixed mindset* undermining motivation and achievement. A student with a fixed mindset believes they have only a certain “fixed” amount of intelligence and thus praising intelligence can create a fear of failing.

Also, *praising performance can undermine intrinsic motivation.* Extrinsic rewards (tokens, gold stars...) are likely to erode intrinsic motivation because students begin working for those tangible rewards instead of the satisfaction of learning.

Kagan, S. *The Power of Praise.* *Kagan Online Magazine, Issue #55.* San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing. www.KaganOnline.com

KASC 2016 Growth Mindset Toolkit

Extended Thought

How Not to Talk to Your Children

Praise Can Be

How Praise & Feedback Impact Student

The Power of Praise by Dr. Spencer Ka-

Praise and Mindset

Unpacking the Growth Mind-

set



#GCMusketeerMindset

No matter what your ability is, effort is what ignites ability and turns it into accomplishment.

- Carol Dweck

I hated every minute of training, but I said, “Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.”

- Mahammad Ali

