

Social and Emotional Development: Praise

Teaching Tips:

- When teaching this topic, it may be helpful to begin with a general definition or explanation of praise in the context of children: Praise is a way of telling children which behaviors are most appropriate.
- Most parents will be familiar with the concept of praise, but they may not understand that praise has several roles in parenting. Sometimes praise can be helpful while at other times, it can be confusing for children.
- Many parents refer to their own upbringing or personal experiences with praise when thinking about how to approach the use of praise in parenting their own child.
- As you teach parents about this topic, remember to help parents understand how their use of praise impacts their child's behavior. This may be a good discussion topic for a group or a journal exercise for individuals.
- Use the key messages below as a focus for teaching this topic as well as a summary of the content.

Learning Objectives for Parents and Caregivers

After learning about praise, parents and caregivers will be able to:

- 1) Present research findings that explain the role of praise for the developing child
- 2) Define effective and ineffective ways to praise a child
- 3) Give praise that will encourage and build confidence in a child's abilities
- 4) Explain criticism in relationship to praise

Key Messages for Parents and Caregivers

- 1) Praise is a way of guiding children towards positive, appropriate behavior.
- 2) Praise helps boost a child's self-confidence when trying new things.
- 3) Children do not learn well from criticism or empty praise.
- 4) Encourage parents and caregivers to say what a child did right before telling them what they did wrong or what needs improvement.
- 5) Parents, caregivers, and teachers all have important roles in praising children.
- 6) For praise to be worthwhile, it needs to support the child's internal excitement about their own developing accomplishments.

