



## Positive response

You can help children to gain self-confidence by rewarding them sufficiently. You can reward them by complimenting when they do things well; for example when they behave nicely or help out. If your child is appreciated for what it does or tries, it will be motivated to continue, take more complicated follow-up steps, or show more of the rewarded behavior.

### Tips:

- Make sure that you pay ample attention to what goes well: reward positive behavior often.
- Make sure that your compliments are sincere and sound positive. Do not reward 'because you had to'; your child will notice. Rewarding a child for tying his/her shoelaces when he or she already does that for months, is not very useful.
- Rewarding your child when it is happy and cheerful is not that hard. But it is important to reward your child for little moments of desired behavior when it is less nice or downright awkward.
- If your child also demands attention for undesirable behavior, try to ignore it. This will reduce negative behavior. In this way, your child learns that it gets attention when it shows positive behavior and not when it misbehaves or whines.
- Make sure that you appoint what you reward and explain why you appreciate that. This will improve the chances that your child will repeat that behavior next time. For example: 'Wow Joshua, you hung your coat, put your shoes under it and even emptied your bag. That is what I call tidy! Very good, now you have more time to play!'
- Reward small steps; do not wait for the final result. If your child tries something or starts to show desired behavior, show your appreciation for that bit.
- An occasional present as reward is okay but do not make a habit out of it!

Do you recognize this? Do you want to talk about it? Feel free to contact me. Pedagogical support for children aged 0 to 13 years is a provision from the social basis and is therefore free for parents. In short, can you use tips and advice to support your child and do you have everyday questions about your child? Then you can contact me and we will see what is needed together.

Of course you can always contact me for other education-related questions. You can also mail or call me.

Until next time,  
Mia van der Heijden

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