

Parenting Education and Family Engagement

Working together to help students be successful in school.

Take Home Tips

Positive Attention Tips

What is positive attention?

- Smiling at your child.
- Making eye contact and using caring facial expressions.
- Being physically gentle and caring with your child.
- Using words to celebrate and encourage your child.
- Showing interest in your child's interests, activities and achievements.



Why is positive attention important?

- Children need experiences and relationships that show them they're valued, capable human beings who bring pleasure to others. Positive attention helps children know how valued they are.
- Your child's self-image builds up over time with positive, loving messages from you and other important people in his life. A healthy self-image is very important, not only for your child's relationship with others, but also for his confidence.
- Your child's feelings of security and safety come from her interactions with you and the other people who care for her. If you reassure and support your child when she's frightened, uncertain or faced with a new or unfamiliar situation, she'll feel safe.
- All children do best in an environment where they're supported, encouraged and enjoyed. They grow and develop through repeated, positive interactions in their first relationships.

How to show positive attention for all ages?

- Look at your child and smile at her.
- Show interest in what your child is doing – ask him to tell you about it if he can.
- Pay attention and listen closely when your child talks to you.
- Make up some special rituals you can share together.

Source: Raising Children Network. Positive Attention and Your Child
Retrieved from: http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/positive_attention.html

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