

CHECKLIST: STRATEGIC NOTICING

Human beings repeat behaviors that are noticed. Noticing a student's behavior makes them more likely to repeat that behavior (positive and negative). - *The Classroom Behavior Manual*, 2022

THE HOW To use strategic noticing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simply say: “<i>I noticed {enter positive behavior here}.</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s it. Say nothing else. ○ If there’s anything else, you did it wrong (see below: <i>Praise is not effective enough.</i>) 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is recommended that you use Strategic Noticing <u>every 90 seconds</u>, all day long. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For every 30-minute period of time, you should strategically notice 20 times. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Example positive behaviors to notice (the list is literally endless):	
● <i>I noticed that you are listening.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you are working hard.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you treat people well.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you play fair.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you sat down and got right to work.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you waited patiently for me.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you waited silently in line.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you washed your hands thoroughly.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● <i>I noticed that you are silent.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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• <i>I noticed that you are all staying to the right of the hallway.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <i>I noticed that you are all working cooperatively.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <i>I noticed that you raised your hand.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Examples of noticing when students accomplish things academically:	
• <i>I noticed that you indented your paragraph.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <i>I noticed that you balanced the equation before solving for x.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <i>I noticed that you followed through when passing the ball.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <i>I noticed that you are all using the word wall to spell your words correctly.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: *The Classroom Behavior Manual*, Scott Ervin, 2022

Note: Praise is not effective enough

- Praise can be somewhat effective with healthy students. It will not be effective with difficult students.
 - Many difficult students have self-esteem issues and trust issues. If you say, “*You are great!*” those students will say to themselves, “*No I’m not! What are you up to and what do you want from me?*” They will then use more negative behaviors to get you to stop praising them. Why? Praise involves a value judgment.
- Fight the urge to notice and then praise! “*I noticed that you are working hard...and that’s great!*”

Hints to Optimize Strategic Noticing:

- Bombard elementary students with S.N. the first 5 minutes of the day and the first 5 minutes after lunch/recess - this reminds them of the behaviors that get attention in your classroom.
- Flood secondary students with S.N. the first 10 minutes of every class period.
- Experiment with public whole group and private individual strategic noticings.

Source: *The Classroom Behavior Manual*, Scott Ervin, 2022

