

- following through on tasks
- sharing something personally meaningful
- supporting a friend
- time spent on-task
- asking good questions
- taking initiative
- demonstrating patience or self-control
- exploring something new
- appropriate use of humor

Your list could go on and on.

Now come up with specific ways to reward students who demonstrate positive behaviors. Here are some suggestions for you to consider:

- praise
- public recognition
- formal awards
- permission to do other things
- class celebrations
- opportunity to present work at a parent night or in a variety show
- free time
- individual attention
- special class events (speakers, films, field trips)
- red-letter day
- opportunity to “collaborate” with you or another mentor
- roster of “stars”
- progress charts
- thank-you notes (public or private)

Never underestimate the power of positive verbal messages. Here are several you may want to try:

- “This looks like you’ve learned a lot. How do you feel about these marks?”
- “I’m glad you’re helping your friend.”
- “You tried something new today. That took courage.”
- “Congratulations on finishing this.”
- “I think this group is ready for the state spelling championships.”
- “You did a good job of standing up for yourself in that discussion.”
- “I’m glad you asked that question, because I’ll bet there are ten other people who want to know the same thing.”
- “I believe you can do it.”
- “I think it’s great how you took the initiative to . . .”
- “You showed a lot of patience (or compassion, or self-control) today.”