



Question:

How can I thank a student for a real act of kindness?

Andie's Answer:

This is kind of a hard question. Research tells us (as does our good sense) that as students mature, open praise from a teacher is not always a good thing! So how do we compliment a student for a particular behavior that we want to see repeated by him/her and others in our classroom? I use something really simple. It is a “Thank You” sticky note. Using one of these notes, you can recognize the student and be specific about the behavior. You write the note and place it on his/her desk, returned assignment, or book bag. It is personal because it is really between you and the student, but other students will know; and believe it or not, other students will want a “Thank You” note. I have found students really do want to be recognized; we just have to figure out how best to recognize them.



These “Thank You” sticky notes also work well with colleagues. I left a note on the desk of one of our first year teachers after he had experienced a particularly bad day. The note did not solve all of his problems, but it did deliver the message that we are a team.

These “Thank You” notes can be found at the e-store at teacherready.net.