The practice of parent praise may be used to increase a child's good behavior through positive interventions. These could be praise, encouragement or affection. Parents give their child positive attention when he or she has good behavior. The child soon learns that he or she will receive positive attention for good behavior.

How does this practice work?

- React with praise when a child has good behavior.
- Use words that describe how well a child responded to a command.
- Use words that describe how well a child is doing in a certain situation.
- Give praise right after the good behavior.
- Give the amount of praise equal to how hard the task is for a child.
- Practice by giving commands and staying close by to give praise.

Examples:

- Luke is asked to play quietly when his mother is on the phone.  
  Mother's praise-“I liked the way you played quietly when I was on the phone.”

- Joan is asked to put the dishes away.  
  Father's praise-“Joan, I really appreciate you helping me by putting away the dishes.”

- Jose was told to be home by 12:00 pm after the high school dance. 
  Father's praise- “Jose, you listened well to the rules for going to the dance last night. I know you were home by midnight.”

- Susan was told to come home right after school to let the family dog, “Roscoe” out.  
  Mother's praise: “Susan I really appreciate the fact that I can count on you to let Roscoe out after school.”

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