Positive Feedback in the Home

As a parent, it is important that you give positive feedback to your child that is specific rather than general.   It is also important to make sure positive feedback is meaningful. Meaningful feedback indicates the positive impact the child's behavior had on others.

Specific feedback involves a **two-step** process.

- Step 1, you tell your child what he/she did.
- Step 2, you tell your child that you like what he/she did (thanks, keep up the good work, etc.). For example,

  ✓ "You have completed your homework every night this week. Keep up the good work!"
  ✓ "Thank you for putting your dirty clothes in the hamper."
  ✓ "I like it when you use 'please' and 'thank you.'
  ✓ "You are getting ready for school on time. I appreciate you doing that."

Meaningful feedback involves a **three-step** process.

- Step 1, you tell your child what he/she did.
- Step 2, you tell your child the positive impact of what he/she did.
- Step 3, you tell your child that you like what they did (thanks, keep up the good work, etc.). For example,

  ✓ "Thank you for cleaning up your dishes. Because of this, clean up is easier for everyone. Thanks!"
  ✓ "I like it when you use your good manners. You help make our time together so pleasant."
  ✓ "You have been getting ready for school on time all this week. It sure does make the morning go smoother for me. I really appreciate your effort."
  ✓ "I sure do like that you got all your homework completed. You worked hard and I am proud of you. Keep it up.

Meaningful Feedback Reinforces Value

Positive feedback is a powerful way to reinforce and encourage positive behavior. When you make positive feedback "specific," you increase the likelihood of getting a repeat performance. When you make it meaningful, you let your child know how much you value the positive behavior. That's because you connect the behavior to some type of positive outcome; thereby, letting the child know that they add value to your family and that you value their contributions.