



Video Vignette Companion Guide

Wings for Kids

Spotlight On...

No two classrooms are alike, and Soar with Wings can be integrated into all classroom environments. When educators use the Soar with Wings resources, children are introduced to social and emotional learning in a way that creates a community in which each child is valued and given the tools to become the best version of themselves. This can be accomplished no matter where or how your class is held.

In this professional learning video, you'll be introduced to Mallory Dorsey, who is the Program Quality Manager for the Wings for Kids program in Charleston, South Carolina. In her role, Mallory guides the Wings Afterschool Leaders as they support students' social and emotional development and strive to create a positive classroom community that praises students and encourages students to praise each other.

A Closer Look

Mallory explores three techniques that Wings Leaders—and educators across the country—can use to integrate praise and positive communication into their classrooms. Below are overviews of each technique as well as quick tips to help you begin incorporating praise into your own learning environments.

1. Heys and Praise

What is it? During Heys and Praise, adults and students take turns praising each other for specific actions or behavior. It is most meaningful when it occurs regularly and in a group setting. When praise is given from one person to another, the rest of the group listens supportively as the speaker articulates exactly what the person has done and how this action made the speaker feel. Remember that Heys and Praise] is different than gratitude (like saying “thanks”) or recognition (like saying “good job”), it is meant to be specific to the person.

Why does it matter? Students learn the importance of their actions and the power they have to contribute to others' wellbeing. They also learn how to better understand the effects of their actions, how to better support their classmates, and how to see and appreciate the good in others.

Tips for using Heys *and* Praise:

- Try to set aside time for Heys and Praise at least twice a week.
- Incorporate mini lessons into the school day about what it means to actively listen so students learn the importance of focusing on the speaker and listening with their eyes, ears, and energy.
- Provide sentence stems or anchor charts to serve as visual reminders for how to give praise.
- Heys and Praise can be done easily in a virtual or classroom setting as long as a group of students are present, attentive, and willing to share!



2. Compliment Corner

What is it? Students and adults privately fill out compliment cards about other members of their classrooms or school community, which are then displayed on a message board for all to see.

Why does it matter? Compliment Corner allows students to recognize each other for small and large acts of kindness or positive actions without having to speak in front of a group. By facilitating written communication, it can help create a safe space for student expression for those who may be more tentative to share verbally. The compliments' constant presence serves as a reminder to be kind and supportive of each other.

Tips for using Compliment Corner:

- Begin by providing a few sample compliments. You could even create a compliment for each student in your class!
- Consider creating a list of sentence stems to help students kick off their writing.
- Set aside time during the week when students can reflect on acts of kindness they have experienced.
- While a white board or bulletin board is the perfect place for an in-classroom display, a virtual message board (such as Google Jamboard) can be used to capture students' compliments in an online learning environment.

3. Positive Feedback

What is it? Educators and other adults are encouraged to provide Positive Feedback when they witness positive student behavior. To be most effective, the praise should describe exactly when and where the behavior occurred, what the child is being praised for, and what happened as a result of the student's actions.

Why does it matter? Positive Feedback gives students the attention they want and need when they exhibit good behavior. As students begin to connect the positive reinforcement with their behavior, they will eventually repeat the good behavior to gain the attention they seek, which builds a classroom community focused around positivity.

Tips for using Positive Feedback:

- Always be on the lookout for positive behavior, no matter how small.
- Provide feedback in real-time and in the moment, when possible.
- Do your best to ensure that your feedback is intentional, clear, and truthful.
- Equip students with specific strategies to practice their listening skills when they receive Positive Feedback. For example, students who listen with the 3Fs will focus on the speaker, figure out what the speaker is saying (by asking questions, if needed), and follow through (by considering how they can continue this behavior in the future!).



In My Own Classroom

Reflect on the questions below as you consider the role that praise plays in your classroom and how you can incorporate it more in the future:

- What am I currently doing to praise my students?
- Based on the strategies presented here, is there anything I can do to make the praise I already give even more meaningful?
- What are 1–3 changes I can make to increase the amount of praise that my students receive in their learning environment—from me, their peers, and other adults?
- How can I ensure that every student receives the praise they need and deserve?

Additional Resources

Looking for even more ways to help you incorporate, support, and reinforce positive communication and praise? Check out the following resources for ideas that can be used in school and at home!

- “Words to Live By” [Pledge](#)
- Soar with Wings [Digital Lesson Bundles](#), especially *Focusing on Me* and *You and Time to Create*
- [Virtual Field Trip](#): Bringing SEL to Life: Skills for the Classroom and Beyond
- [Professional Learning Video](#), especially Segment 6: Relationship Skills
- Soar with Wings [Family Activities](#), especially *In Your Shoes* and *Dinner Discussion*