

Read & Reflect Paper #2: Five Reasons to Stop Saying “Good Job”

Article by Alfie Kohn

Due: Fri. May 9th, can submit on paper or email to bujnakdm@laccd.edu

Read the article and respond to each question below. Use full sentences and thoughtful responses. Your paper should be approximately 1–2 pages typed, double spaced. You can submit on paper in person, or digitally to bujnakdm@laccd.edu

Section 1: Summary

- What are two examples of “praise”, and what are the five reasons the author gives for avoiding “praise”?

Section 2: Reflection

- Have you heard or used the phrase “Good job!” with children? Why do you think adults say it so often
- What concerns does Kohn raise about the effects of this kind of praise
- Do you agree with Kohn’s concerns? Why or why not? How does the idea of understanding change your thinking about guiding young children?

Section 3: Connection to Course Concepts

- What are some other ways - besides saying “Good job” - that you could respond to a child’s actions or learning?
- How do Kohn’s ideas connect to PG&C Strategy #12: “Use verbal acknowledgements for encouragement & recognition”?
- How does this reading challenge or support what we’ve learned about supporting children’s self-regulation and personal agency?