

If I Were To Give Praise

One of the most common incentives we use in 4-H is giving praise for a job well done. Positive comments from peers, volunteers, and other adults is one way we can encourage members to continue their good work. Usually praise contains very little supplementary information. It is simply a statement that a person has done a good job, or that the object, or performance is of high quality.

Whenever we praise someone we are making a judgment about that person or their work. This aspect of praise means that we need to recognize that praise is not always perceived by the other person as a compliment. First of all we need to be certain that we are aware of how the receiver is responding. It is often easier for 4-H members to give or accept praise in written form. Think back to the last time you praised someone:

1. Did the person open up or did he/she become defensive or uncomfortable?
2. Did the person seem more motivated or did he/she seem less interested in continuing with activity?

Think back to the last time you received praise:

1. How did you feel?
2. What did you say in response to the praise?

You might have said, "Oh, that's nothing. I could have done better". Or maybe you said "thank you".

There are many ways you can give praise to members. Here are 65 ways to say "good for you" or to praise other people.

That's really nice.

Thank you very much.

Wow!

That's great.

I like the way you're working.

Keep up the good work.

Everyone's working so hard.

That's quite an improvement.

Much better.

Keep it up.

It's a pleasure to teach when you work like this.

Good job.

What neat work.

You really out-did yourself today.

This kind of work pleases me very much.

Congratulations.

That's right. Good for you.

Terrific.

I bet your Mom and Dad would be proud to see the job you did on this.

Beautiful.

I'm very proud of the way you worked (are working) today.

Excellent work.

I appreciate your help.

Very good. Why don't you show the group?

Thank you for (sitting down, being quiet, getting right to work, etc.)

That's an interesting point of view.

Sherrie is really going to town.

You've got it now.

Out of sight.

Nice going.

Far out.

Marvelous.

Groovy.

Right on.

For sure.

Sharp.

That looks like it's going to be a great report.

I like the way Tom is working.

My goodness, how impressive.

You're on the right track now.

That's top quality work.

John is in line.

Mary is waiting quietly.

Dickie got right down to work.

Ann is paying attention.

It looks like you put a lot of work into that.

That's clever.

Very creative.

Very interesting.

Good thinking.

That's an interesting way of looking at it.

Now you've figured it out.

Clifford has it.

That's the right answer.

Now you've got the hang of it.

Exactly right.

Super.

Superior work.

That's a good point.

That's a very good observation.

That certainly is one way of looking at it.

Thank you for raising your hand, Charles.

What is it?

You made it look easy.

That's coming along nicely.

I like the way Bill (the group) has settled down.