



Positive Parent Contact (PPC):

A Simple and Effective Positive Behavior Intervention

For more information, please contact Sarah Fefer, Ph.D., BCBA, sfefer@umass.edu

Positive parent contact (PPC) is a strategy to enhance communication between teachers and families that combines two research supported practices: behavior specific praise and school-to-home communication. The goal is to provide two “positive shout outs” to caregivers each week, using a communication method that aligns with the preferences of both the teacher and parents. The examples here are for email communication, or communication sent through an app (like ClassDojo or Remind). PPC involves teachers “catching the student being good” in the classroom and reporting the specific positive example to families through brief communication two times per week. The strategy is designed to be used as a Tier 2 intervention with a small number of students and families. This can be used with students who are demonstrating classroom disengagement/off-task behavior or minor disruptive behaviors, or with families who do not yet have a relationship with the teacher. In order to ensure that this strategy requires minimal time/effort for both teachers and families, teachers are provided with a bank of scripts to start the communications. Additionally, no questions or requests for replies are included in the communications to families. These scripts should be aligned with each school’s Tier 1 school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations in order to reinforce those expectations for students and families, and include genuine examples of classroom behavior. We provide some example scripts here to get you started at your school. Please modify these to align with your school-wide PBIS practices and with your school culture. See Fefer et al. (2020) in the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions* for more information.

Positive Shout Out Script Examples

FOLLOWING COVID PRECAUTIONS

Dear PARENT,

I just wanted to reach out and let you know how respectful and responsible STUDENT has been in the classroom this week! STUDENT has been wonderful at following the rules and keeping their mask on all day.

This helps to keep us all safe at school and I just wanted to let you know how great they have been doing.

All the best,

_____ (teacher name)

RESPECT AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS SHOUT OUT

Dear PARENT,

I just wanted to reach out and let you know how respectful STUDENT has been in the classroom this week!

STUDENT has been wonderful at following through with directions and was able to listen calmly to feedback

regarding his/her/their assignments and/or behavior. This is something STUDENT has been working hard on and I wanted to share their progress!

All the best,

_____ (teacher name)

KINDNESS SHOUT OUT

Hello,

I am writing to share some positive news about I thought you would appreciate! STUDENT was kind to others today and waited patiently for his/her/their turn. This behavior has had a positive impact on our classroom and is something that we love to see from our students! It is also part of our school expectation, kindness.

All the best,

_____ (teacher name)

FOCUS AND INDEPENDENT WORK SHOUT OUT

Dear PARENT,

I hope all is well! I am writing to tell you how impressed I have been with STUDENT in the classroom! STUDENT demonstrated incredible improvement in his/her/their ability to focus on independent work in the classroom as we have been learning about _____. This behavior has had a positive impact on their work completion overall. I appreciate all of your continued encouragement of STUDENT in their schoolwork.

Best,

_____ (teacher name)

GIVING YOUR BEST SHOUT OUT

Dear PARENT,

I am reaching out to let you know that I have noticed STUDENT has really been giving his/her/their best effort during _____ class. I am impressed by STUDENT's hard work! This is also related to our school expectation "Like Yourself" as we encourage students to try their hardest.

Best,

COOPERATION SHOUT OUT

Dear PARENT,

I just wanted to reach out and let you know how cooperative STUDENT has been in the classroom this week! We had a lot of variability in our schedule these last few days and STUDENT was able to be flexible and work productively with other students. We have seen great improvements in the classroom.

Thank you,

_____ (teacher name)

EMPATHY AND BEING HELPFUL SHOUT OUT

Dear PARENT,

I hope you have had a wonderful week! I wanted to let you know that STUDENT has been extremely helpful in the classroom this week! He/she/they have been following through with classroom roles and even offering help to other students if needed. This behavior has had a positive impact on our entire classroom environment! I am impressed with all the improvement STUDENT has made throughout the year.

All the best,

_____ (teacher name)

RESPONSIBLE SHOUT OUT

Hello,

_____ engaged in one our of PBIS expectations today and was responsible while walking in the hallway. Behaviors like this are what make our community great! I just wanted you to know the great things _____ (student name) is doing at school!

All the best

_____ (teacher name)

GENERAL SHOUT OUTS

Hello,

I am writing to share some good news about your student that I thought you would appreciate! _____ (STUDENT) has/was/demonstrated _____ (praise/positive statement).

This behavior has had a positive impact in/on _____ (setting/person) because _____. This is something that we love to see from our students!

All the best,
_____ (teacher name)

Hello,

I wanted to reach out to you to share some wonderful news about _____ (Student name) has/was/demonstrated _____ (positive praise statement). This _____ (action) demonstrates our character value of _____ (one or more of the PBIS values), which has had such a positive impact on/for _____ (class/peer/individual) because _____. This was such a wonderful thing to see in your child and something we love seeing our students do.

All the best,
_____ (Teacher Name)

Remember that all shout outs should be based on positive behaviors observed in the classroom. Example praise/positive shout outs:

- ... a quiet line leader who was a model for their classmates.
- ... helped another student with a difficult task.
- ... appropriate hand raising during whole classroom instruction.
- ... receptive to feedback on a project or task.
- ... sitting quietly while I was working with another student.
- ... a helper in the classroom by completing _____.
- ... persistence when working on a challenging activity.



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PPC Contact Rubric

	0- not included at all	1-somewhat included	2- met the criteria fully
Only positive information was included about the student in the contact.			
The teacher identified a specific behavior that the student engaged in.			
The contact did not include a question or a request for a response.			
The contact was genuine and different from previous contacts.			
The teacher made a connection between the students' behaviors and the PBIS expectations at the school.			