

Specific Feedback versus Praise

Instead of:	Try:
“Good Job!”	“I noticed you used a simile here that helps the reader feel how tense the scene was.”
“Terrific meeting today!”	“I noticed lots of careful listening and pausing to think before talking.”
“I’m so pleased with the way you all helped each other with cleanup so you finish faster.”	“You all helped each other with cleanup so you could finish faster.”
“I love how quiet the room was and how busily everyone was working.”	“Did you notice how quiet the room was and how busily everyone was working?”
“I like how you made these all different sizes.”	“You made these all different sizes. What did you choose to do it this way?”
“This is A+ work!”	“You paid attention to every detail in this model.”
“Nice job!”	“I see that all backpacks and coats have been put away neatly.”
“Nice job with your note taking.”	“I see you wrote the main ideas in your own words and carefully noted where you got the information.”
“Thank you for getting your books out.”	
“I noticed how hard you worked.”	

