

**Figure 14.1** Increasing Positive Interactions

- Commit to saying hello to every student as he or she enters the classroom (put special emphasis on kids with whom you may have had a recent negative interaction).
- Seek out positive (appropriate) interactions that are not contingent on behavior.
- Find the little things that make kids tick (activity, team, interest, etc.) and talk about them with them.
- Catch the good behavior by drawing attention to it (thanking students, commenting, etc.).
- Focus praise or attention on effort rather than attributes (talk about a student's hard work rather than a student's intelligence).
- Pay attention to academic and behavioral opportunities for praise.
- Post reminders to praise (sticky note to yourself on the Elmo; poster in the class, on your lesson plans).
- Set specific praise goals (today every student who gets the book out will be praised).
- Set goals based on irrelevant prompts (every time a teacher enters my room, I'll praise three kids).
- Double up on praise by naming all students who are doing something appropriate (Michelle, Lea, Susan, and Jenny, thanks for getting your book out so quickly).
- Vary methods of praise.
- Call (or email) the parents of children who are doing well.
- Send home postcards to parents to praise kids.
- Prominently display student work in the classroom.
- Ignore minor misbehavior if the behavior is attention seeking.

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