

DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Principal's Positive Phone Calls

Hidden Hills Elementary School, Arizona

Topic: Reducing Behavior Problems

Practice: Teach Skills

Principal's Positive Phone Calls are a positive reinforcement strategy targeting students who would benefit from positive attention to encourage positive behavior and reduce problem behavior. This program targets primarily those students who are known by the school staff to have relatively less parental support at home in relation to school. Examples of cases in which the teacher will recommend a phone call include: meeting a behavior goal written in a behavior contract (for disruptive students), meeting a behavior goal written in an Individual Education Plan (IEP; for students eligible for special education services), or students who show persistence despite stressful life events (e.g., a homeless student who comes to school every day).

The purpose of the Principal's Positive Phone Call is to recognize the student who is going above and beyond to try his or her best, academically and with their citizenship/behavior. Often, students are recognized publicly. The principal makes a "parade" of going from room to room by grade level, while inviting the selected three students by

grade level to the conference room. Then the principal calls their parents on the speaker phone so the students can be congratulated by their parents. If parents are separated, both parents are called. If they have no phone, they call a “special” friend on campus like last year’s teacher, or someone else the student chooses to be called. Students take a copy of the teacher nomination for the positive phone call home to put on their refrigerator so everyone can see, and their names are also printed in the school newsletter. Other schools can consider using positive phone calls to support students who may need additional support or encouragement.

HIDDEN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S POSITIVE PHONE CALLS

1 STUDENT PER TEACHER PER MONTH

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____

Parent's name if different than student's _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

What is positive _____

Principal's Comments _____

