

25 Ways to Reward and Encourage Children Without Food

It can be tough to come up with ideas to reward positive behavior in the classroom. Pizza parties, cupcakes, and candies are safe stand-bys that evoke an immediate and positive response from students. The following 25 suggestions provide ideas for non-food options.

1. Have a Dance-Dance Revolution
2. Offer a “get out of homework” pass
3. Have extra art time
4. Hold class outdoors
5. Watch a movie
6. Have extra music and reading time
7. Play a computer game
8. Play a favorite game or puzzle
9. Earn play money for privileges
10. Make deliveries to the office
11. Read to a younger class
12. Be a helper in another classroom
13. Get a “free choice” at the end of the day
14. Listen with a headset to a book on tape
15. Have teacher perform a special skill (sing, tell jokes, dance for the class)
16. Have a chat break at the end of class
17. Take a walk break
18. Show-and-tell
19. Take care of the class pet
20. Get extra recess time
21. Win stickers, pencils, sports cards
22. Earn a certificate, plaque or ribbon
23. Receive a video store or movie coupon
24. Choose a paper-back book
25. Have Friday Free Time - Students have 30 minutes at the start of the week and they can earn or lose free time according to their behavior. Adding time is the most effective!