TDA34-2.1 Explain the benefits of actively promoting positive aspects of behaviour.

By promoting positive aspects of behaviour a child is much more likely to respond positively in the future. If the teacher names the good behaviour, e.g. ‘well done you’ve tidied up nicely, putting everything back in the correct boxes’, then the child will know what is expected of them and therefore is more likely to do this again in the future. Most children want to please the teacher in order to be praised, which raises their self-esteem and confidence. The opposite to this would be if the teacher made a negative comment e.g. ‘that’s not right, that’s not how we tidy up’, creating confusion and lowering a child’s self-esteem. The child may not understand what the teacher expects of him/her. Promoting positive aspects of behaviour is especially important for children with a low self-esteem or those children who find it difficult to follow instructions and behaviour considerately towards others.

The saying ‘catch a child being good’ is commonly used to remind adults to look for simple situations where children can be praised e.g. ‘well done child 1 you are using your listening ears’, or ‘well done child 2 I love the way you are sharing the pencils with child 3’. If you use this strategy the child will understand exactly what they have done correctly, received praise for their actions and is much more likely to repeat this good behaviour in the future.