

**Ideas for Low-Cost/No Cost Incentives**  
**Center for School Mental Health**  
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It can be challenging when developing effective behavioral programs to find incentives that are affordable. Below is a list of a few resources for low-cost and no cost incentives for students.

Oriental Trading Company – [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) offers inexpensive incentives that can easily be used in the classroom setting.

<http://specialed.about.com/cs/behaviordisorders/a/rewards.htm>

This article, *Rewards and Positive Consequences: Strategies for Behavior Students*, from About.com highlights ideas for free incentives that can be used in schools, especially in the classroom setting. Suggestions for incentives are listed below

- Become a helper to the custodian, librarian, another teacher or the office staff.
- Become a class monitor for a specific area of need e.g., hall monitor, room check monitor, tidy monitor etc.
- Helping a younger student with a learning task for a specified period of time.
- Earn points for a class video.
- 15 minutes of free choice activity.
- Work with a friend.
- Wear your ball cap or favorite hat for a work period.
- Read a comic book.
- Show or tell the class something you have or did.
- Have lunch with your favorite person or the teacher.
- Read a story to the principal or to another class.
- Hand out supplies for a defined number of activities.
- Free time in another classroom.
- Receive a positive note for home.
- Pick something from the prize box.
- Pick something from the treat box. (Keep it healthy, crackers, animal cookies, fruit, juice boxes, popcorn, granola bars, marshmallows etc.
- Earn tickets toward free time.
- Free pencil, pen or eraser.
- Positive phone message or email home.
- Free poster.
- Free story for the whole class! (A strategy like this lets others help the student at risk stay on target.
- Earn a cooking day for the class.
- Take the bubble blower out a recess.
- Free homework pass.
- Leader for the day.

- An additional gym period with another class (be sure to partner up with a teacher for exchanges like this one).
- Listen to the radio or CD with a headset for a specified period of time
- Have work posted in the hall or near the office.
- Enjoy a game with a friend or in another class.
- Be the leader for the first gym activity.

If nothing on this list interests the child, ask what type of incentive he/she believes would help him/her to obtain their behavior goals and help keep them on track.

**School Express** has an excellent website and offers a free program for creating personalized awards for children. There are 7 steps in creating an award; enter child's name, select a caption category, select a caption, select a picture, select a border, write a short message, print the award or email it to anyone.

<http://www.schooexpress.com/awards/index.php>

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/classman2.html> The Can Teach website offers a list of 49 Classroom Management incentive ideas. The ideas are listed below:

1. Sit at the teacher's desk.
2. Take care of the class animals for the day.
3. Have lunch with your favorite person.
4. Have lunch with the principal.
5. Join another class for indoor recess.
6. Have the teacher phone parents to tell them what a great kid you are.
7. Draw on the chalkboard.
8. Be first in line.
9. Do only half an assignment.
10. Choose any class job for the week.
11. Choose the music for lunch. Bring in a tape.
12. Take a tape recorder home for the night.
13. Use colored chalk.
14. Do all the class jobs for the day.
15. Invite a visitor from outside the school.
16. Get a drink whenever you want.

17. Use the pencil sharpener any time.
18. No early morning work.
19. Take a class pet home overnight.
20. Be a helper in the room with younger children.
21. Help the custodian.
22. Help the secretary.
23. Help the librarian.
24. Stay in at recess to play a game with a friend.
25. Use stamps and ink.
26. Invite a friend from another class into the room for lunch.
27. Use the teacher's chair.
28. Work in the lunchroom.
29. Take a class game home for the night.
30. Choose a book for the teacher to read to the class.
31. Move your desk to a chosen location.
32. Keep an animal on your desk--stuffed or not stuffed.
33. No homework pass.
34. Lunch with the teacher.
35. Operate the projector.
36. Use the couch or beanbag chair for the day.
37. Go to another class for lunch.
38. Use the computer.
39. Be the first to eat.
40. Use the tape recorder and tape a story.
41. Have a special sharing time to teach something to the class, set up a display etc.
42. Be leader of a class game.
43. Go to the centre or your choice during play centre time.
44. Extra centre time or extra recess.
45. Read to a younger child.

46. Read to someone else.
47. Get first pick of recess equipment.
48. Get a fun worksheet.
49. Choose a movie for the class to watch.