Examples of positivity in teacher language

In general, focus on the person, rather than on their achievement – it's about them, not the thing they have done.

Phrases teacher uses	Function
"You're good at this/these"	Personal validation
"You have a talent for this!"	Personal validation
"Are you up to the challenge?"	Raising expectations – said before a task starts
"Who's up to the challenge of the next one?"	Raising expectations – said to get volunteers for giving answers
"Is it OK to rub off the words on the board?"	Permission – putting sts in control
"Thank you for checking that Miguel"	Thanking – when student does something helpful
"If I didn't give you any homework, I wouldn't be doing a good job"	Letting sts know that the teacher cares about them learning
"Good choice"	Praising the student's thinking skills
"You ask really good questions!"	Personal validation
"I've heard you are a great class"	Acknowledgement in first lesson
"Come back to the school and tell me about the great success that I know you are going to be"	Said when a student is leaving

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Humanizing Language Teaching

Phrases teacher use when things are not going perfectly	
Course you can do it – believe in yourself, nothing's impossible!	