



Greeting A-Round

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Grades K–4

Students repeat a simple chant while moving around in two concentric circles. At the end of each chant, students pause to exchange a friendly greeting with the student in front of them. This greeting provides a chance for students to greet—and be greeted by—many different classmates.

Skills practiced

Oral language; touching safely and respectfully; reading

Materials needed

A chart with the words to the chant written on it

Preparing students for success

- Review what is involved in a friendly greeting (eye contact, using names, gentle handshake, etc.). If necessary, model and practice the basics of a friendly greeting.
- Agree as a class on the one way everyone will greet each other. (Early in the year, a simple “hello” or “good morning” greeting with a handshake is usually best; later students may want to use a more complex greeting.)
- Model and practice how to hold hands and move together in a circle safely.
- Make sure there is an even number of participants.

How to do it

1. Students stand in a circle and count off by 2s.
2. The 2s step forward to form an inner circle.
3. Students in each circle hold hands with their neighbors (1s with 1s, 2s with 2s).
4. Each circle moves in a different direction while students say the following chant:

Round I go
Friendly I'll be
Round and round
What do I see?
I see a friend
Looking at me!
5. When the chant finishes, both circles stop moving and students release their hands. The students in the inner circle (the 2s) turn around to face the students in the outer circle (the 1s).
6. Students in the inner circle greet the student they are facing in the outer circle and vice versa.
7. Students hold hands again (1s with 1s and 2s with 2s), move around in a circle, and repeat the chant. The process continues for five or six rounds.

Bead Exchange

Students greet students who are holding different beads (or other small objects) than they are. Greetings can be marked by the exchanging of beads. This greeting can also be used to form two groups. All the students holding a certain color bead at the end of the greeting come together to form a group.

Skills practiced

Friendly greeting; gross motor

Materials needed

Enough beads (or other small objects such as counters, chips, etc.) so that each student gets one; (half should be one color and the other half another color)

Preparing students for success

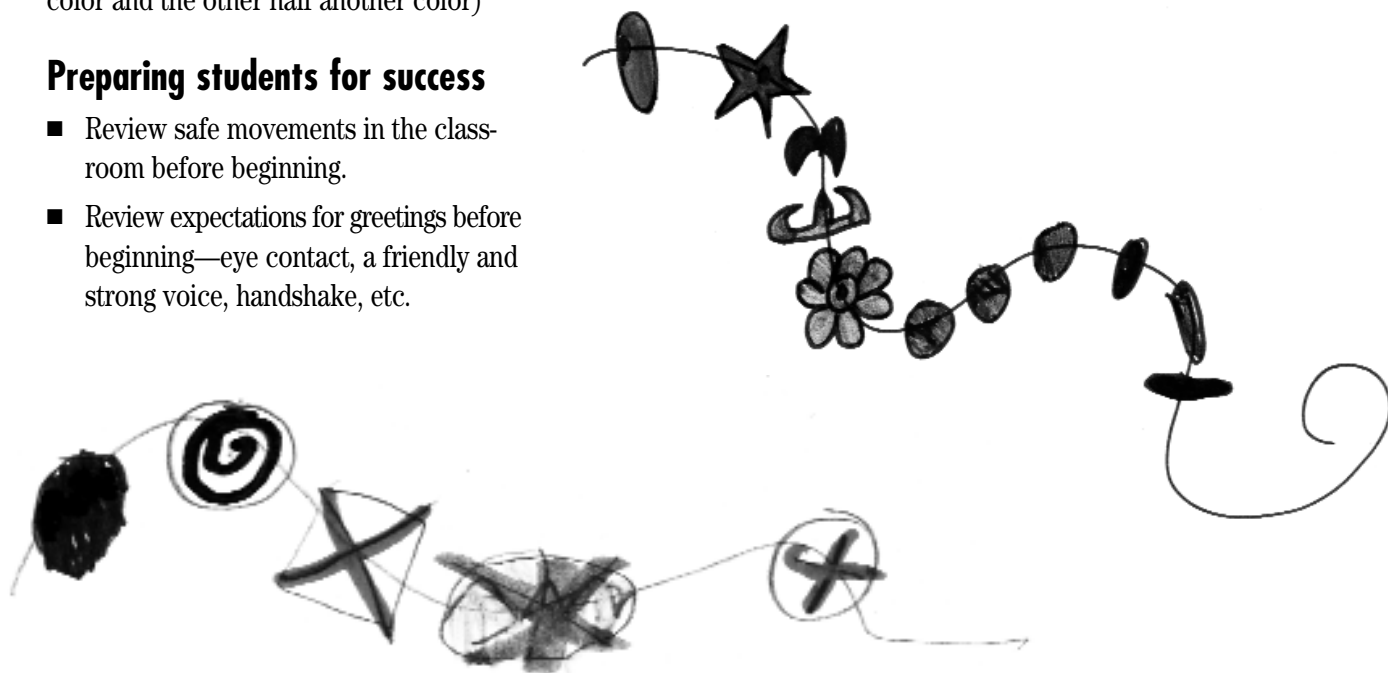
- Review safe movements in the classroom before beginning.
- Review expectations for greetings before beginning—eye contact, a friendly and strong voice, handshake, etc.

How to do it

1. Students stand in a circle. Give each student a bead.
2. Give a signal for students to mix and mingle, greeting students who have a different color bead. When the greeting is complete, the students exchange beads.
3. The process continues with students always looking for someone with a different color bead.
4. After about two minutes, give a signal for the greeting to end.

Bead Exchange

Grades K–8



Silent Signal Greeting

After students know everyone's name, they choose gestures to represent their names in this completely silent greeting. It's a challenge for them to remember everyone's gesture and satisfying when they do. The silence is a nice change of pace and may help some students concentrate.

Skills practiced

Concentration; gross motor; memory

Materials needed

None

Preparing students for success

- Brainstorm different kinds of gestures students might use to represent their names (tugging on their right ear, scratching their head, a salute, raising their arms over their head, etc.). Each student needs a unique gesture. Discuss what to do if one student uses a gesture another had planned to use.
- Discuss, model, and practice ways to silently ask for help if a student cannot remember another student's gesture.
- Establish a sign to show who has been greeted (thumbs up, raised hand, etc.).
- Model and practice the greeting before beginning.

How to do it

1. Students sit or stand in a circle. Remind them that the game is silent and give them a moment to choose a gesture to represent their names.
2. When everyone is prepared, choose a student to go first and then go around the circle twice with students demonstrating the gesture they've chosen. Everyone's goal is to remember as many as possible.
3. Choose a student to begin the greeting by making eye contact with someone across the circle. The first student waves and then does that student's gesture. The student being greeted waves back and does the greeter's gesture. Students can get help from other students if they are having trouble remembering a student's gesture.
4. The second student repeats the process by greeting someone else across the circle. The process continues until everyone has been greeted.
5. Take a few minutes to reflect on this activity afterwards, noting successes and challenges.

Variations

- Ask each student to do a gesture that represents an interest, hobby, or sport (playing basketball, reading, gardening, etc.). Students can share their interests verbally at the end of the greeting.
- If students have learned how to say "Hello!" or "Good morning" in American Sign Language, they can use these signs instead of waving.

Silent Signal Greeting

Grades 3–8

