



Grades K-5

Compliment Circle

Materials needed: none

Skills reinforced: observation, recall, using descriptive language, giving and receiving compliments, public speaking

1. **Tell the class early in the day** that in closing circle they'll be complimenting classmates on their positive behaviors. Tell students to look throughout the day for things such as people making friendly lunch conversation or helping others solve a math problem.
2. **Start the closing circle by modeling** a respectful compliment. For example, turn toward a student, look at him, and say "You invited someone to join a game at recess today" with a friendly face and voice.
3. **A student starts by complimenting** the person to his right. For example, "Julia, I noticed how you held the door open at lunch today."
4. **Julia says** "Thank you" and nothing else, and the compliment giver says "You're welcome."
5. **Continue around the circle.** If you have time, do a second round in the reverse direction.

Tips:

- Save this activity for midyear, when students are more comfortable talking about each other's behavior.
- For grades 3–5, start by using pre-made compliment cards (see next page) to give students safe practice in giving compliments. Later, they can come up with their own compliments.



Grades 3-5

Reproducible Compliment Cards

Make enough cards for each student to have one, plus a few extra. When it's their turn, students draw a card, decide whom the compliment applies to, and place the card in front of that classmate. Each student should receive only one card.



**You helped
someone today.**



**You showed
responsibility today.**



**You showed
cooperation today.**



**You showed
self-control today.**



**You showed
kindness today.**



**You took a learning
risk today.**



**You were a good
friend today.**



**You were
respectful today.**



You shared today.



**You were a good
listener today.**