

## **Greeting**

Greeting every child at the beginning of the day provides children with a sense of community and belonging. Children learn one another's names, build connections, and develop caring and welcoming practices. Greeting others and being greeted by others sets a positive tone for the day.

Start with a simple greeting. Initially, the teacher can model greeting others by greeting each child in a simple manner. This may be a name song or a handshake and "good morning." Once children have developed comfort with being greeted by the teacher, explicitly teach the children how to "pass" a greeting from one friend to another, around the circle.

In order for greeting to be successful, teach children to:

- Orient their bodies to face their peer
- Make eye contact
- Say "Good morning, \_\_\_\_\_," or any other verbal greeting
- Use their peer's name
- Complete the movement (elbow tap, handshake, high five, etc.)



### **Greeting Trajectory: Working Up to a Reciprocal Greeting**

Introduce greetings in a scaffolded order:

1. Teacher greets individual child by name
  - Welcome Song (Second Step)
  - The More We Get Together Song
2. Child says own name

- Name Song
3. Greet neighbor by passing a greeting
    - Pass a heart shape as you greet person - "I am passing kindness to \_\_\_\_\_."
    - Pass a new materials (such as a pattern block) as you say, "Hi \_\_\_\_\_. We could play with pattern blocks today."
  4. Reciprocating Greeting with neighbor
    - Shaking hands while saying "Good Morning"
    - Greet as many people as you can in one minute (end of yr.)

Repeat new greetings for 2-4 weeks, until children have reached mastery. Then, add new greetings one at a time, occasionally practicing previously introduced greetings. Once your class has developed a repertoire, children can choose the daily greeting. Having a visual chart of the greeting they have mastered supports children in choosing a greeting.