



Morning Meeting Greetings

Greetings for Early in the Year

“Good Morning” Greeting

Two participants face each other, make friendly eye contact, and say, “Good morning, _____,” using each other’s first name. The greeting is passed around the circle.

Handshake Greeting

Once students are comfortable with each other, teachers can add a handshake to the “Good Morning” Greeting. Two students face each other, shake hands gently, make friendly eye contact, and say, “Good morning, _____,” using each other’s first name. The greeting is passed around the circle.

High Five Greeting

This is another variation on the “Good Morning” Greeting, which can be introduced when students are comfortable with each other. Two students face each other, make friendly eye contact, say “Good morning, _____,” using each other’s first name, and then do a gentle high five. The greeting is passed around the circle.

Name Tag Greeting

Place students’ name tags (or index cards with names) in a basket in the center of the meeting circle. Make sure names are facing down and are not visible. First student randomly chooses a name tag from the basket, finds the named person in the circle, crosses to that person, and says a friendly “Good morning, _____,” using the student’s first name. The student just greeted then chooses a nametag from the basket and the greeting continues until everyone has been greeted.

Variation: Place index cards with names on them face down in a pile in the center of the room. Students take the top card in the stack.

Picture Greeting

In this variation on the Name Tag Greeting, the teacher glues pictures of each student to a card and places the cards on a ring. The teacher begins the greeting by randomly choosing a picture and handing it to the first greeter. The first greeter walks to the person who is pictured, says a friendly “Good morning, _____,” using the

person's first name, hands that person the ring of pictures, and takes that person's place in the circle. The second person turns to the next picture on the ring, and the greeting continues around the circle until everyone has been greeted.

When a greeter turns up a picture of a student who is absent, the greeter says, "Miss you _____", using the absent student's first name, and then turns to the next picture on the ring.

Variation: Pictures could be glued on index cards, which are then stacked face down in the center of the circle.

Cheer Greeting

Teach students the words for the call-and-response and then brainstorm ideas for activities and for the name of a person who does that activity. If some students might have a hard time thinking of an activity, suggest a phrase they can use instead of saying "pass" (e.g., "I like to think" and "I'll be a thinker"). Give students a minute to think about how they will respond. Then, going around the circle, students do the call-and-response.

S(tudent): My name is (*first name*).

G(roup): Yeah!

S: And I like to (*activity*).

G: Uh-huh.

S: And I'll be a (*person who does this activity*).

G: Yeah!

S: Every day of my life.

G: Every day of (his/her) life.

For example:

My name is Carla.

Yeah!

And I like to swim.

Uh-huh.

And I'll be a swimmer.

Yeah!

Every day of my life.

Every day of her life.

Across-the-Circle Greeting

Children walk across the circle to greet someone. There can be many variations, such as girls greet boys/boys greet girls, greet someone who rides a different bus from you, greet someone you don't know very well, etc.

The teacher begins by letting children know about any qualifications on whom they can greet (boy-girl, etc.) and then gives them a minute or two to think about several possible children they might greet. The first child walks across the circle to the person she wants to greet and offers a friendly "good morning" greeting. These two students change places and the initial greeter sits down. The next child walks to the person he wants to greet, and the greeting continues until everyone in the circle has been greeted.

Greetings for Later in the Year

A Rig-A-Jig-Jig

Students form inner and outer circles, facing each other. Everyone sings "A Rig-A-Jig-Jig" and students in the outer circle walk around the circle (or skip or march) in time with the song (or the circles move in opposite directions). When the song ends, students stop walking. Each person makes sure he or she is facing someone in the opposite circle and then partners greet each other. This continues for several rounds.

A rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
Away we go, away we go,
A rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho.
As I was walking down the street,
Down the street, down the street,
A friend of mine I happened to meet,
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho.

Hello, Neighbor

Students form inner and outer circles, facing each other. Each student greets the person opposite by singing the "Hello, Neighbor" song and doing the movements. The inside circle then moves one person to the right so that everyone has a new partner and repeats the chant and movements. As the greeting continues, the teacher can call out different languages for students to use as they say "Hello" (for example, Guten tag, neighbor; Hola, neighbor).

Hello, neighbor, what d'ya say? (*Wave to your partner*)

It's gonna be a wonderful day. (*Arms circle over head and then move down to the sides*)

Clap your hands and boogie on down. (*Clap hands and wiggle down*)

Give me a bump and turn around. (*Gently bump hips*)

Variation: Instead of bumping hips, students can jump ("Give me a jump and turn around") or raise hands high ("Then raise your hands and turn around").

Skip Die Greeting

Children throw a die to find out the number of spaces to skip before greeting someone. For example, if the first child to greet someone throws a "four," she will skip four people and greet the fifth person in the circle. The first greeter hands the die to the person she greets, takes that person's place in the circle, and sits down. The second greeter throws the die, and the greeting continues until everyone has been greeted.

One-Minute Greeting

Students mingle and say, "Good morning, _____" to as many other students as they can in one minute. So that the pace doesn't get too frantic, emphasize the importance of standing still and making eye contact when greeting someone.

Ball Toss Greeting

The first greeter greets someone, then gently throws, rolls, or bounces a ball to that child, who returns the greeting (but not the ball). The second child then chooses a new child to greet and to pass the ball to. The greeting continues in this way until everyone has been greeted once. The greeting ends when the ball returns to the starter. Before the greeting begins, figure out how to indicate that someone has been greeted (for example, sitting down, putting hands behind back).

Variation: Once the greeting ball has gone around the first time, have the children do a "silent rewind" by sending the ball back to the person who greeted them.

For more information about Morning Meeting Greetings, please see [The Morning Meeting Book](#) by Roxann Kriete (© NEFC 2002) and [99 Activities and Greetings](#) by Melissa Correa-Connolly (© NEFC 2004)