

Make-N-Take

Project: Greeting Apron

Materials:

- Cotton apron
- Cut-out craft foam or laminated pictures
- Velcro dots



Usage:

Start each day by greeting children as they arrive. Ask, "How would you like to be greeted?" Then conduct the greeting that they choose. This morning activity builds connection and empowers children by offering an opportunity for successful decision-making.

The greetings you use will be as varied as your students. You may also want to make seasonal aprons, greetings that support your curriculum or special occasion aprons to keep the morning ritual fresh. Below is a list of greetings and instructions for conducting them. Let these be a part of your creative process as you design your own greetings or help the children create theirs.

Basic apron

- Bear: big bear hug
- Duck: link arms, use your other arm to make a wing. Flap your wings and walk in a circle.
- Rocket: start low, go to a high five, miss and clap hands in "low" five.
- Heart: place your hands on your heart (no contact)

Other Greetings

Crab shape: Both people hold their arms out towards each other and move fingers like a crab's pinchers until they touch hands.

Skunk shape: Tell the child to hold his/her nose. Interlock your pinky finger with the pinky finger of the child and greet the child. Talk in a nasal tone.

Sailboat shape: Both people hold hands the whole time. Swing your arms over your heads together, then swish your arms to one side while making a blowing sound with your mouths. The motion is like the air filling a sail and blowing it to the side.

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Snake shape: Both people use their hand and arm to make a slithering motion. Now, twist your arms together with the other person's, and open your hands (which represent snake mouths) and make a hissing sound with your mouth. Your hand hisses at you and the child's hand hisses at the child. This reduces fear and allows connection.

Butterfly shape: Interlock thumbs with each other. Stick your fingers straight out, and then "flutter" your fingers in a butterfly motion.

Fish shape: Hold your hands perpendicular to the floor with your thumb pointing up like a fin. Have the child assume the same position. Have the fish swim (move them around). Then catch the child's hand in a thumb lock and say "Gotcha!" and "Good Morning!"

Snowman shape: Start by facing each other. One person moves to touch his/her shoulder to the other person's shoulder. Then you both start rolling your bodies till they come around to face each other again.

Pig shape: Both people face each other. Make a pig nose on your face by pushing your nose up with your index finger. Make eye contact and say "good morning" enthusiastically. Add a pig snort if you wish!

Reindeer shape: Both people put their hands on top of their heads, pointing fingers out to create "antlers." Then bend your heads towards each other and lock antlers.

Directions:

1. Choose four or less greetings you would like to include on your apron. The general rule is to use the number of choices that reflect the age of the child(ren) you are working with. For example, a 2-year-old would have two greeting choices.
2. Cut out foam shapes by cutting out the templates, tracing them onto the foam and then cutting out the foam shapes. You can also create your own shapes using a die-cut machine, or you can cut out and laminate pictures

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you find in magazines or on the computer.

3. Decorate your greeting shapes with glitter glue, beads, feathers, googly eyes and whatever other fun materials you choose.
4. Affix the rough side of the Velcro to the non-pocketed side of the apron.
5. Affix the soft side of the Velcro to the back of your greeting shapes.
6. Store your extra greeting shapes in the pocket of the apron.
7. You did it! You made a Greeting Apron!

