

Compliment Chain – Levels F-3

GRATITUDE

To help students experience the joy of giving and receiving kind words. In this heart-warming activity, students will create a “Compliment Chain,” passing positive words around the group to show gratitude and kindness just like the Playful Astronauts learn on Earth: when we care for one another, we help the world grow kinder and stronger.



Learning Intentions

Students will practise giving kind compliments to others in their class. This helps them develop gratitude and learn how to express appreciation for their peers.



Students will learn to listen carefully and feel proud when receiving kind words from others. This encourages them to accept kindness with gratitude and build self-confidence.

Students will practise creating a chain of kindness by using generous and thoughtful words. This reinforces the idea that small, caring actions can create a big positive impact, just like taking care of our Earth.



Success Criteria

I can think of a kind compliment and share it with another student. This ensures students reflect on positive traits in others and practise expressing them out loud.



I can listen to compliments and respond with a smile or a thank you. This supports emotional connection and social skills.

I can help continue the chain by passing on kindness to the next person. This promotes generosity and the joy of giving without needing anything in return.



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Objective:

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Players:

Ideal for groups of 4–26 students seated or standing in a circle.

Materials:

None required, but optional:

- A “Kindness Chain” paper display for compliments to be written or drawn later.

Time Required:

10–15 minutes

Setup:

Gather students in a circle and remind them that Earth is the first stop in the Playful Astronauts journey. It is a place full of life, love, and kindness. Today, they'll practise giving a gift that doesn't cost anything but they mean a lot! Compliments are free, let's share them more often!

Explain that a compliment is something kind you say about someone else, like:

- “You’re a great friend.”
- “I like how you help others.”
- “You have a lovely smile.”

Gameplay:

Explain the Activity:

Start the chain yourself by giving a compliment to a student sitting next to you. That student then turns and gives a compliment to the next person, and so on, until the compliment has travelled all the way around the circle.

Encourage students to use their own words and keep it simple and heartfelt.

If a student is unsure, you can gently guide them with prompts like:

- “What do you like about your friend?”
- “Has someone helped you today?”



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Extend the Experience (Optional):

After the verbal chain is complete, you may invite students to draw or write one of the compliments on a coloured paper strip and create a visual “Kindness Chain” to display in the classroom.

Encourage Reflection:

Once the chain is complete, bring the group together and ask:

- “How did it feel to give a compliment?”
- “What was something kind you heard from a classmate?”

This reinforces the power of kind words and helps students reflect on gratitude.

Winning the Game:

There is no winner in this activity. The reward is the warm feeling of sharing and receiving kindness just like how Earth blossoms when people take care of one another.

Variations:

Younger Students: Provide sentence starters like “I like how you...” or “You are great at...” to help students form compliments.

Written Chain Edition: Students write their compliments on paper links, connecting them to form a kindness chain that grows throughout the week.

Partner Edition: Pair students randomly to give and receive compliments directly, then switch partners to keep building connections.

Whole-School Edition: Extend the activity across classes, where students share compliments with other grades or staff to build a culture of appreciation school-wide.

For Wheelchair Users / Accessibility:

- Ensure the circle is spaced wide enough for all students to see and reach one another easily.
- Compliments can be shared verbally, signed, written, drawn, or shown through gesture (like a thumbs-up or heart sign).
- Provide a peer assistant or teacher helper to pass the compliment if physical passing is challenging.
- For non-verbal students, use visual aids such as compliment cards with words or symbols (“kind,” “funny,” “helpful,” “brave”) so they can point or choose one to give.
- Include technology (e.g., tablets or communication devices) for students who use them to share kind messages.



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Notes for Inclusion:

- Begin by modelling an authentic compliment about a student (e.g., “I love how you always make people laugh”). This sets the tone and helps students understand sincerity.
- Reinforce that all compliments are valued equally, no comparison or ranking of “better” or “best.”
- Encourage empathy by highlighting how giving kindness feels just as good as receiving it.
- Celebrate diversity in how students express kindness, spoken words, gestures, drawings, or facial expressions all count.
- End with a group affirmation such as: “*We are a class that lifts each other up with kindness and gratitude.*”

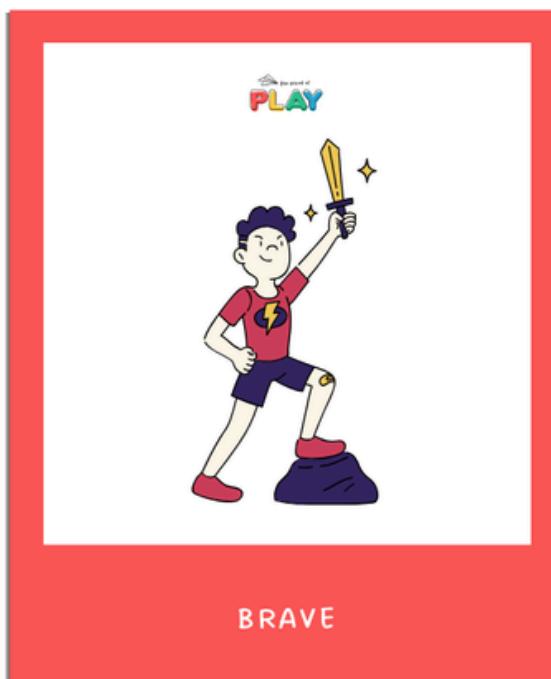
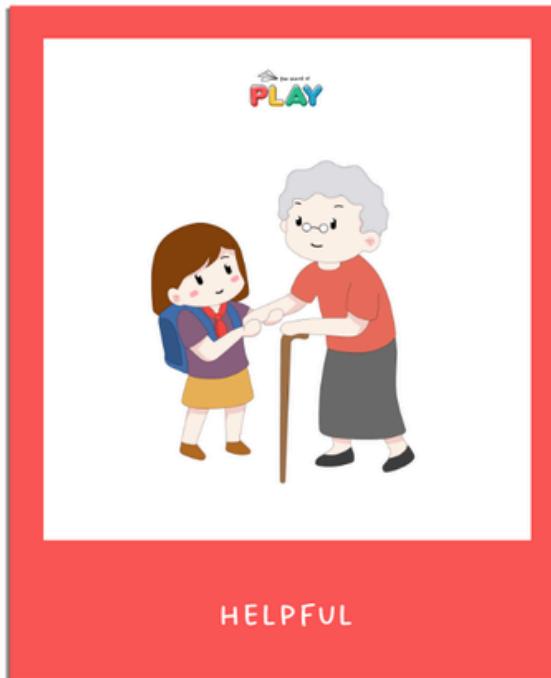
Additional Notes:

- “Compliment Chain” is a gentle, confidence-building activity that helps students practise gratitude and kindness in a tangible way. It aligns perfectly with the theme of Earth, our home planet, where kindness, sharing, and appreciation make the world a better place. This is a wonderful way to close the first week of *The Playful Astronauts* curriculum with warmth, connection, and smiles.

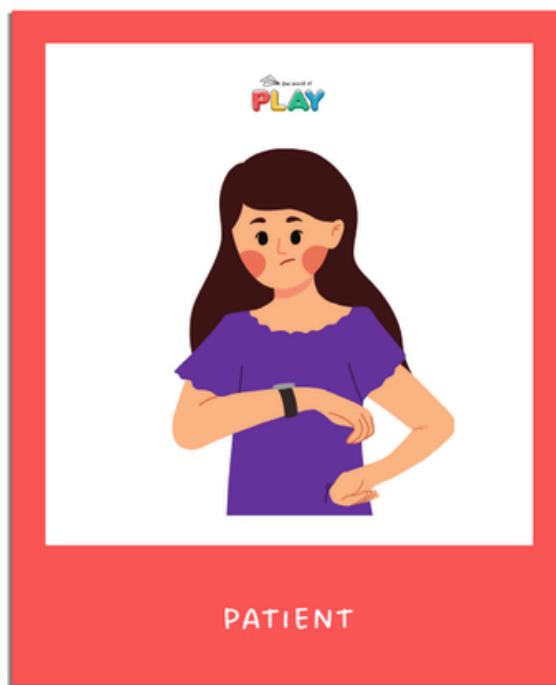
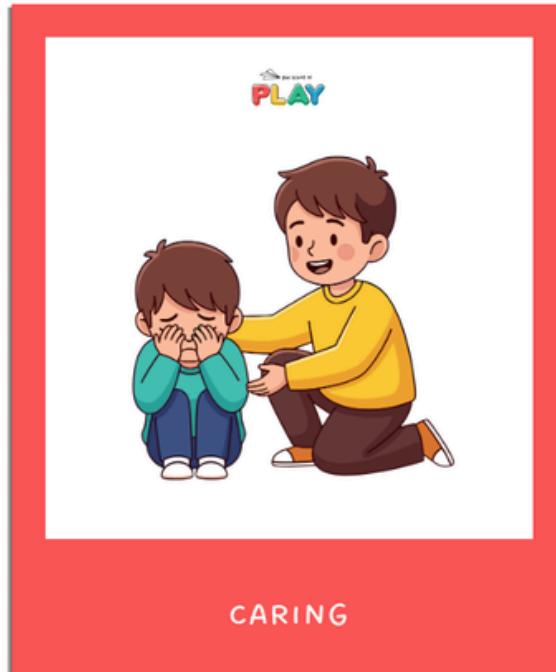
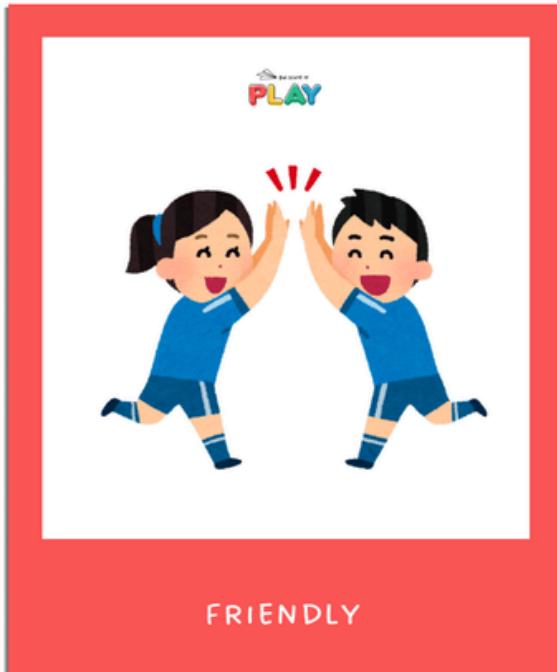


COMPLIMENT VISUAL CARDS

PRINT AND CUT OUT THE CARDS. STUDENTS SIT IN A CIRCLE AND THE TEACHER MODELS GIVING A COMPLIMENT BY CHOOSING A CARD AND PASSING IT TO THE NEXT STUDENT. THE STUDENT RESPONDS WITH "THANK YOU" IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEN CHOOSES A NEW CARD TO COMPLIMENT THE NEXT PERSON.



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