

Gratitude Charades - Levels A - B

GRATITUDE

To support early gratitude awareness, communication, and social connection through a simple, structured charades-style activity that values participation and shared enjoyment.



Learning Intentions

Students are working towards:

Noticing positive experiences or people in their lives

Exploring simple actions and gestures to communicate meaning

Participating alongside others in a shared, playful activity



Success Criteria

Students demonstrate success when they:

Participate by acting, gesturing, choosing, or watching

Indicate a gratitude idea using movement, pictures, or AAC

Attend to others during the group activity in their own way



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Duration: 5 - 8 minutes

Objective

To support early gratitude awareness, communication, and social connection through a simple, structured charades-style activity that values participation and shared enjoyment.

Players

Small group, whole class, or 1:1 with an adult
(Group size adjusted based on regulation and support needs)

Materials

- Gratitude charades cards (found in PDF resource)
- Bowl or container for picking the charade cards out of
- Clear space for the “stage” for acting

Setup

1. Print and prepare the Gratitude Charade cards and place them in the bowl or container
2. Seat students in a circle or semi-circle where they can see the stage area.
3. Model one example by acting out a gratitude idea slowly to the class.
4. Explain that students can move, gesture, or make sounds to help them act their card out.

Gameplay / Activity Steps

Step 1: Choose a Gratitude Card

- The teacher or student randomly selects a gratitude card from the bowl.
- The teacher helps to explain the card to the student.

Step 2: Act or Show the Idea

- The student acts out the gratitude idea in a way that suits them.
 - This may include:
 - Hand gestures or whole body movements
 - Facial expressions
 - Using a prop
 - Students may act from their seats or on the stage area.
- Teachers feel free to help the student act out their card and act together!



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Step 3: Group Response

The students and educators aim to guess what is being acted out by the student on the stage. Alternatively they can join in acting and mimic the actions being completed by the student on the stage.

Step 4: Celebrate

- All attempts are celebrated with:
 - Clapping or cheering
 - Smiling
 - Thumbs up

Step 5: Take Turns

- Repeat the process with another student until engagement decreases.

Reflection

Using visuals, gestures, or AAC, prompt gently:

- “Did you like acting?”
- “Who was your favourite person to watch act?”

Reflection may be adult-narrated where appropriate.

Sensory-Specific Learner Variations

For sensory-seeking learners:

- Allow bigger gestures or repeated turns
- Use props to increase engagement
- Repeat preferred gratitude actions

For sensory-sensitive learners:

- Allow acting while seated
- Reduce noise and cheering
- Offer observation as valid participation
- Limit group size

AAC and Communication Supports

- Provide AAC buttons such as “help,” “play,” “family,” “thank you,” “again”
- Use visual choice boards with two options
- Accept all communication modes including eye gaze, pointing, switches, or vocalisation
- Adults model AAC use consistently during the activity



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For Wheelchair Users / Accessibility

- Select gratitude ideas that can be shown with hands or facial expression
- Allow pointing to pictures or using AAC instead of acting
- Ensure acting space is clear and accessible
- No requirement to move across the space

Notes for Inclusion

- Participation may include acting, guessing, observing, or choosing
- Adults may co-act or model with students
- Accuracy is not required for success
- Celebrate effort, engagement, and shared attention equally
- Keep routines predictable, calm, and emotionally safe

GRATITUDE CHARADES CARDS

PRINT AND CUT OUT THE CARDS. A STUDENT PICKS ONE CARD AND ACTS OUT THE GRATITUDE IDEA USING MOVEMENTS, GESTURES, OR SOUNDS WHILE OTHERS WATCH OR JOIN IN. ADULTS SUPPORT BY NAMING THE ACTION AND LINKING IT TO FEELING THANKFUL.



HELPING SOMEONE
PACK UP



EATING A YUMMY
DINNER



GRATITUDE CHARADES CARDS



UNWRAPPING A
BIRTHDAY PRESENT



PLAYING AT THE
PARK



LISTENING TO MUSIC

