

Pass the Smile - Levels C & D

STAY ACTIVE

To support students to express kindness and positive emotion through movement and non-verbal communication. Students practise sharing joy using gestures and simple movements, helping to create a happy, connected classroom community linked to Earth, the Playful Astronauts' first stop, where caring for others matters.



Learning Intentions

Students aim to use body movement and facial expression to share kindness and joy with others.

Students aim to participate in a group movement activity that builds connection and inclusion.

Students aim to build confidence by expressing themselves through smiles, gestures, and playful movement.



Success Criteria

I can pass a smile, gesture, or movement to the next student.

I can move my body in a safe and respectful way.

I can take turns, watch others, and respond when it is my turn.



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Duration: 10 - 15 minutes

Objective

To support students to express kindness and positive emotion through movement and non-verbal communication. Students practise sharing joy using gestures and simple movements, helping to create a happy, connected classroom community linked to Earth, the Playful Astronauts' first stop, where caring for others matters.

Players

Whole class

Suitable for 4 - 26 students

Played standing or seated in a circle

What You Need

No equipment required

Clear open space for safe movement

Setup

1. Arrange students in a large circle, ensuring enough space between each student for movement.
2. Students may stand, sit on chairs, or remain in wheelchairs as needed.
3. Introduce the activity using clear, simple language:
 - "On Earth, kindness can be shared through smiles, waves, and friendly actions."
 - "Today, we will pass kindness around our circle using movement."
4. Explain the routine:
 - "One person starts."
 - "They pass a smile and a movement."
 - "The next person copies, then makes their own."
5. Model expectations for safe movement (no touching others, staying in personal space).



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Gameplay

Step 1: Teacher Models

The teacher begins the game.

- Turn to the student next to you.
- Show a clear smile and a simple movement (e.g. wave and step to the side or a thumbs up).
- Say: "I pass my smile to you."

Step 2: Student Turns

1. The student who receives the smile and movement:
 - Smiles back
 - Copies the movement they were shown
2. That student then chooses a new gesture or movement, such as:
 - Wave
 - Shoulder wiggle
 - Spin
 - Hop
 - Arm stretch
3. The student passes their smile and movement to the next person in the circle.

Step 3: Continue Around the Circle

- Each student copies the movement they receive, then creates their own to pass on.
- The teacher supports students with prompting or modelling as needed.
- Continue until the smile has travelled all the way around the circle.

Debrief / Reflection

Ask one question at a time, allowing wait time and multiple ways to respond:

- "How did it feel when someone smiled at you?"
- "What movement made you feel happy?"
- "How can we share smiles at school?"

Reinforce the key message:

"Small actions, like smiles and kind movements, can make others feel good."



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Winning the Game

There are no winners or losers.

The goal is participation, shared joy, and spreading kindness around the group.

Sensory-Specific Learner Variation

Purpose: To support students who benefit from movement, proprioceptive input, or reduced sensory load.

Adjustments include:

- Allow students to choose calming or strong movements based on regulation needs.
- Use slow, rhythmic movements for students who need calm input.
- Offer heavy work movements (arm presses, pushing hands together) if helpful.
- Allow students to observe first and join when ready.
- Provide a clear visual cue (e.g. teacher points to next person) to support predictability.

AAC-Specific Supports

1. Prepare AAC in Advance

- Pages with: smile, happy, hello, wave, my turn, your turn

2. Model AAC During Play

- Teacher activates AAC while smiling or gesturing: "Smile," "Happy"

3. Supported Participation

- Students may activate a button to indicate "my turn"
- Students may choose a movement from visual cards
- Eye gaze, pointing, or gesture are valid responses

4. AAC Reflection

- Ask: "How do you feel?"
- Students respond using AAC, gesture, or facial expression



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Accessibility and Inclusion Notes

- All movements can be adapted to upper-body actions.
- Ensure wheelchair users have equal space and visibility.
- Allow seated participation for all students if preferred.
- Pair students with an adult or peer if additional support is needed.
- Celebrate all forms of participation equally.

Teacher Notes

"Pass the Smile – Levels C & D" supports cooperation, non-verbal communication, emotional expression, and physical movement. It works well as a warm-up, regulation activity, or connection-building exercise and reinforces the Earth theme by showing how kindness and joy can be shared through small, everyday actions.

