

Pass the Smile – Levels F-3

STAY
ACTIVE

To help students express kindness and joy through movement and non-verbal communication. In this energetic circle game, students will pass friendly gestures, such as smiles and waves, along with a fun physical action, helping to build a happy and connected classroom community. This activity aligns with Earth's teachings on caring for others and sharing joy with the world around us.



Learning Intentions

Students will practise using movement and body language to share kindness with others. This encourages them to explore how simple gestures can make others feel happy and included.

Students will learn how to take part in a fun physical game that helps them feel connected to their classmates. This promotes cooperation, movement, and inclusion through play.

Students will practise building confidence by expressing themselves through smiling, waving, and playful movements. This helps them feel more comfortable sharing joy and positive energy with others in a group setting.



Success Criteria

I can pass a smile, wave, or silly pose to the next student in the circle. This ensures students are practising physical expression and non-verbal communication.



I can move in a fun and respectful way, such as hopping, spinning, or skipping. This helps students practise coordination and controlled movement.

I can take turns, watch closely, and respond with a big smile when it's my go. This promotes focus, timing, and positive interaction.



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Objective:

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Players:

Ideal for groups of 6–26 students standing in a circle.

Materials:

No materials required, just enough open space for safe movement.

Time Required:

10 –15 minutes

Setup:

Ask students to stand in a large circle, giving each person enough space to move without bumping into others. Introduce the game by reminding them that on planet Earth, the Playful Astronauts first stop, kindness can be shared through small gestures like smiles, waves, and friendly body language. Let students know that their mission is to pass kindness around the circle using movement and fun!

Gameplay:

Explain the Game:

Choose one student to start. They turn to the person next to them and pass a gesture (either a smile, a wave, or a silly pose), along with a fun movement like a hop, spin, wiggle, or skip.

For example:

- Student A smiles and hops to the person next to them (Student B).
- Student B then smiles back and chooses a new movement (like a spin) before passing on another positive, fun gesture to the next student in the circle (Student C). Student C then mimics the gesture Student B gave to them before creating their own positive and fun gesture to the next student in the circle and so on.

Each student chooses their own movement and gesture, keeping the game fresh and full of surprises!



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Encourage Creativity and Joy:

Students are encouraged to be playful and positive with their actions. Emphasise that the goal is to share joy, not to be perfect. Laughter is welcome, and silly poses are celebrated. Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn.

Encourage Reflection:

After the circle is complete, gather students and reflect:

- "How did it feel when someone smiled or did something funny for you?"
- "Did you enjoy making someone else smile?"

Use this moment to remind them that just like on Earth, our actions can brighten someone's day.

Winning the Game:

There are no winners or losers. Every student's contribution helps spread kindness and happiness, just like each person plays an important part in making the world a better place.

Variations:

Younger Students: Use only smiles and waves to simplify the movements. The focus can be on eye contact, copying, and responding with kindness.

Creative Expression Edition: Allow students to add sound effects or simple words of kindness ("You're awesome!" or "Have a great day!") when passing their gesture.

Fast-Paced Edition: After everyone's had a turn, try a speed round, can the class keep the smile moving all the way around the circle without dropping it?

Quiet Connection Edition: Play silently to encourage eye contact and body language awareness, highlighting the power of non-verbal kindness.

For Wheelchair Users / Accessibility:

- All gestures and movements can be adapted to upper-body expressions, such as waving, clapping, raising arms, or making heart shapes with hands.
- Ensure enough space in the circle for wheelchair users to move comfortably and participate equally.
- Replace hopping or skipping with hand rolls, head nods, shoulder wiggles, or expressive gestures.
- Allow participants to choose their favourite way to express kindness, through a gesture, movement, or facial expression.
- Encourage inclusive pacing so everyone can join in at a rhythm that feels comfortable.



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Notes for Inclusion:

- Model the first few turns yourself, showing that all gestures, big or small, silly or calm, are welcome.
- Celebrate creativity rather than performance. Reinforce that *kindness looks different for everyone, and every smile shared matters*.
- If some students are shy, allow them to pair with a friend or teacher for extra support.
- Use reflective praise such as, “I loved how you made your gesture unique!” or “You really made the group smile!”
- End the activity by celebrating the class as a “Circle of Kindness,” reinforcing teamwork, joy, and belonging.

Additional Notes:

“Pass the Smile” is a simple and energising way to combine movement, kindness, and fun.

- It builds confidence, encourages joyful expression, and sets a positive tone for the week.
- This activity fits beautifully with the Earth theme, reminding students that kindness can be shared in many small but meaningful ways.

