

POSITIVE GREETINGS AT THE DOOR

WHAT IS IT?

A routine to start class or the day with a positive interaction. It can include greeting students by name, shaking a student's hand, asking a short question, or making a friendly comment that communicates they are welcome.

WHY DO IT?

Greeting students as they enter (or exit) your classroom/school is a simple and effective way to create a welcoming classroom and build positive relationships. Being greeted by an adult who is happy to see them can start a student's school day on a positive note. Likewise, an affirmative interaction at the end of the class can end student's day on a positive note as well too. These positive interactions are especially important for students who experience family conflict, walk to school through unsafe neighborhoods, or have unmet daily needs. Research has shown that positive greetings at the door increases students' time on task, reduces disruptions, and builds positive relationships (Allday & Pakurar, 2007; Cook et al., 2018).

HOW DO WE DO IT?

There are many ways that students can be greeted as they enter the classroom. Examples of greetings are provided below.

BASIC STEPS:

Stand just inside or outside of the door and...

1. Greet each student by name
2. Have a short positive interaction (e.g., praise, friendly comment, question)
3. Direct them to the first activity

VARIATION 1:

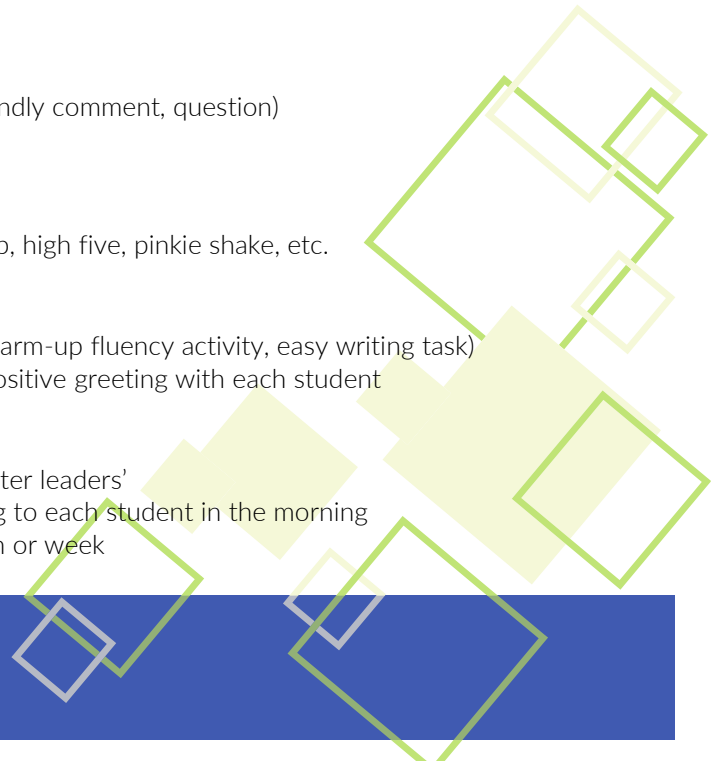
- Offer the student a choice of handshake, fist bump, high five, pinkie shake, etc.

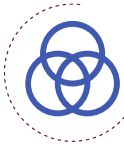
VARIATION 2:

- Provide a quiet, independent entry activity (e.g., warm-up fluency activity, easy writing task)
- Circulate around the room, ensuring you have a positive greeting with each student

VARIATION 3:

- Train students in your class to be greeters or 'greeter leaders'
- Students along with the teacher provide a greeting to each student in the morning
- Students alternate the role of greeter every month or week





FIDELITY CHECKLIST

Please check YES or NO for each step in the full strategy (can be completed by self or with peer).

Date: _____

Time: _____

Teacher: _____

Steps	Yes	No	Notes
1. Stand just outside or inside of the door (or move around the classroom)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Greet each student by name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Have a short, positive interaction (e.g., praise, friendly comment, question)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Direct them to the first activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional Comments			

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Create a poster/note or a phone alarm to remind yourself to greet students
- Add a welcoming sign(s) to your doorway and change periodically
- Schedule greetings and allow time for them in your morning and afternoon routine

REFERENCES

Allday, R. A., & Pakurar, K. (2007). Effects of teacher greetings on student on-task behavior. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 40, 317-320.

Cook, C. R., Fiat, A., Larson, M., Daikos, C., Slemrod, T., Holland, E. A., . . . Renshaw, T. (2018). Positive greetings at the door: Evaluation of a low-cost, high-yield proactive classroom management strategy. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 20, 149-159. doi:10.1177/1098300717753831

