

Special Edition



OH, Behave!

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... "bite size" news from your Region 10 Behavior Specialist

Behavior Tip:

Positive teacher-student relationships promote a sense of school belonging, encourage students to participate cooperatively and reduce the likelihood of problem behaviors!

The Magic of the Greeter Apron

The way we are greeted in the morning makes a huge difference in how we begin our day and, essentially, sets the tone for the entire day. Combining choice and visuals, the greeter apron ensures every child will receive a greeting as they enter the classroom. Whether a child chooses to get a bear hug, a handshake, or wave hello, these greetings help build and maintain relationships. An individual greeting says, "I am glad you are here!" and "It is good to see you today!" The eye contact, physical touch, and individual attention help teachers get to know a child in a more personal way. This is vital in establishing a secure, nurturing relationship.

Greeting choices can also be posted on a board displayed near the door or on the door itself; however, when the teacher wears the apron, it is a wonderful reminder to give

each child an individual greeting even when drop-off gets busy. By donning the apron with the choices displayed, the act of welcoming and acknowledging a child seems most sincere.

Being a "greeter" can be a job for a child in the class to perform also. A child-size apron can be used to display a variety of greeting choices. However, if the desire is to establish a positive teacher/child relationship, it is essential the teacher be part of this special exchange.

Consistency is key to using the greeter apron most effectively. Wearing it daily shows you value the one-on-one time spent with each child. Regardless of the activities planned for the day (special school trips or visitors), the greeting time should never be neglected.

While the possibilities of greet-

ings are endless (see a list of ideas on page 2), one doesn't need many materials to create an apron. A hardware store "tool" apron and fabric paints or markers is all that is required. Aprons can also be purchased at craft stores. Pockets can be useful in the apron, but are not absolutely necessary. If the drawing and/or painting on an apron is of a concern, laminating greeting icons is an alternate idea. As a plus to using laminated choices, Velcro can be placed on the back of the pictures so that the icons can be changed over time (Tip: Use sandpaper to create a small, rough place on the laminated picture before applying the Velcro to ensure lasting adhesiveness!)

Once you get in the habit of using the morning greeter apron, consider adding a goodbye greeter apron or ritual to your day too!



Child Care Resource Center

Child Care Resource Center
(Formerly Work Family Resource Center)
Lead Agency for Region 10

"Enriching Child Care, Engaging Families,
Enhancing Communities"

www.childcareresourcecenter.org



North Carolina Healthy Social Behaviors Team sporting their own greeter aprons!

Greeter Apron Examples & Ideas



Order your own personalized greeting apron on ETSY










www.etsy.com/shop/RoseColoredCrafts



- Greeting Ideas:**
- High 5
 - Thumbs Up
 - Bear Hug
 - Wave
 - Smile
 - Handshake
 - Fist Bump
 - Dance
 - Finger Wiggles
 - Elbow Bump
 - Robot Dance
 - Blow A Kiss
 - Fish Kiss
 - Eskimo Kiss
 - Wink
- Three to five choices are ideal. Be sure to include some non-touch choices.

Questions or Comments?



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Do you have a question you would like to see answered in our monthly column?
Feel free to email your question to rbeeker@ccrr.org.
You can remain anonymous if you prefer, but please put your question to the attention of "Ask The Behavior Specialist".