

First Day Greeting

Grade

Preschool to 8th Grade

Purpose

This meeting, on the first day of school, will set the tone of your classroom for the year. It is a perfect time to introduce the different ways in which people communicate. They will see individuals communicating with a Step-by-Step device, a Tech-Talk, a Big Mac, picture symbols, a different language and sign language. Students will feel that whatever way they communicate is a welcome addition to our class community.

Objectives

1. Learn the names of classmates
2. Build sense of community
3. Familiarize children with "Greeting" routine
4. Help each child to feel comfortable with their method of communication
5. Show every child that there are many ways to say the same thing
6. Help each child to feel special because of the way that they communicate
7. Familiarize children with devices within the classroom

Resources/Materials/Technology

1. Tech Talk
2. Big Mac
3. Step by Step
4. Picture Symbol

Preparation

Each of the recordable devices should be prerecorded with a greeting as well as the user's name. The Picture symbols should be created. Each child who needs a device should have it charged and ready to use.

Activity

Have the children join the rug by sitting in a circle. Both teachers should introduce themselves. Say, "Every morning when we come to school we will get to say good morning to our new friends. Everybody does this a little differently. Let's see some of the ways that we say hello in our classroom." Each adult will have a different device and will say hello using these devices. One adult should say hello in sign language while another says hello in another language. As the children say their greetings stop to say, "Oh I love the way that ... said his/her name nice and loud." For a child who may be too shy to speak out loud but will wave their hand you can help to introduce them by saying, "Look at the way that ... said hello. She used her hands. Great job ..." After each child has said their name tell them that this fun activity is something you will do each morning.

Follow-up

For the first few days, and throughout the year, make sure that the adults in the classroom are periodically using devices to greet the children. Allow other children to use the devices as well. Not for playing with as a toy but for a purpose, such as greeting their peers. This will help every child to feel comfortable interacting with individuals who need AAC devices as well as to appropriately use other devices within the classroom.