How to develop:

Ability to use social greetings

Strategies

- **Build opportunities into everyday moments** – using what the child sees, does, hears everyday.
- **Use visual support** - gesture, objects, photographs, symbols.
- **Use items/games the child enjoys** to keep the activity motivating.

Activities

Awareness of others – alien visitor:
You need a doll or creature to represent the alien visitor. The children sit facing the adult. Introduce the doll as a visitor called "Zig" from an alien planet. Explain that Zig feels nervous and worried. The alien visitor is passed around the circle and each child is asked to say something to make him feel welcome before passing him on to the next child. The adult may need to prompt with suitable greetings e.g. "Come and play with us", or "Sit next to me".

Hello/goodbye songs:
At the start/end of a session/group sit in a circle and have the children roll a ball to each other, the child rolling the ball and the recipient of the ball then wave at each other and everyone says hello/goodbye or sings the hello/goodbye song. Keep going until everyone has had a turn.

Role play:

- Generate social greetings with the child i.e. "hi", "hello", "bye", "see you later" etc.
- Role play meeting people and have the child practice using the social greetings.
- Model social greetings when you see another adult/child.