



Circle Time!

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Why Circles?

Preschoolers and younger children are by nature very “me” focused.

Children need many opportunities for socialization and learning to give and take – to develop a spirit of cooperation.

Circle time puts everyone on the same plane – no leaders, no winners, no losers.

Circle activities help you as teacher to observe/assess children in a non-threatening “playtime” atmosphere.

Children are given opportunities to work together, side by side as a learning team.

Children are able to interact with each other and with the teacher without physical barriers of rows, tables, chairs or other classroom barriers.

Circles can happen in any clear space – take the learning outside to other locations.

Make a Circle Space

Clear an area – no chairs.

Define the circle with a carpet, carpet squares, rubber Dot Spots, floor tape, paper plates, etc.

Make expectations simple and clear: Sit quietly. OR Stand in place. (Be consistent.)

Have a procedure for getting preschoolers to and from the circle....a signal, music played, etc.

Build a Community of Learning

Passing Games

cups, balls, sticks, and more

Parachute Activities

Move to recorded hymns – see GiG

Sing in a Circle (TUNE: TIDEO)

Sing in a circle, here we go (step clockwise)

Sing in a circle, don't be slow

Sing in a circle, that's the way (step counter clockwise)

Sing in a circle, stop and play.

Lift up HIGH (Lift and hold) Bring it to the floor and sing down low (drop to floor)

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Singing Games

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? – use Beanie Babies®

Let Us Chase the Squirrel – traditional circle game

Scarf game – Paper plates in a circle with a scarf on each plate. Pick up scarves and move to the poem:

Scarves up high

Scarves down low

Draw a circle – fast, then slow!

(Sit in circle. Do a question/answer game. Sing: Who has a red scarf? All who have red respond: I have a red scarf. Sing several colors. Stand up, place scarf on plate. Step clockwise around circle – 4 places. Pick up a new scarf and repeat from the poem.)

Pepe's Pizza Palace – circles are not just for preschoolers!

Instrument activities

Paper plate spots with an instrument - play the instruments with music, then scoot around to next instrument

Itsy Bitsy Spider "counting out" game – those "counted out" get to grab an instrument and play along – no losers/winners!

Colored plates (2 or 3 colors) – put C pentatonic resonator bells and mallets (or desk bells) on plates. Have children tap bells together while you sing a pentatonic song. Call out a color and have only those children play while others sing. Take turns until all have played. Stand up and move around circle...Change to a new song, and play again!



Lu-cy Lock-et lost her pock-et. Kit-ty Fish-er found it. Not a pen-ny was there in it. Just a rib-bon 'round it.



Ack - a back - a so - da crack - er, ack - a back - a boo. Ack a back - a so - da crack - er, out goes you!