CIRCLE TIME SUCCESS....IT BEGINS WITH YOU

Presented by:
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WHY DO WE DO CIRCLE TIME....

- Circle Time is the routine wherein the teacher leads the children to a large or small group activity. It’s the time to say “Good Morning” or “Good Afternoon” to everyone, check the weather, review the day and date and find out what activity is lined up for the day.

- Circle Time is used to calm a group of children down or help refocus the classroom.

- Circle Time is used to help with smooth transitions.

- Creative thinking/receptive and expressive language

- Develop socialization skills friendships

- Increase attention span/self-regulation

- Teaches cooperation/taking turns

- Extensive learning – introduce colors, shapes, numbers, letters, pre-math, science

- During Circle Time routines are established for the child to be able to predict what’s going to happen next. Why? because routines helps children to become more secure with their surroundings.
CIRCLE TIME STRATEGIES....

- Large group vs. small group
- Indoor and outdoor
- Consistency
- Behavior Management
- Routines
- Other ideas:
  ____________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________
PLANNING AND PREPARATION IS KEY....

- Team Teaching approach
- Lessons plans must be completed
- Materials set out in advance
- Visit the public library
- Teaching in the moment
- Check out websites [www.preschoolrainbow.org](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org)

- Other ideas:
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Remember to Include...

- Multicultural Activities songs, stories, music

- Props

- Roll Call- creates sight word recognition, Children can count how many boys and girls are here today

- Calendar - patterning, only review: yesterday, today and tomorrow as this is age appropriate

- Weather

- Music

- Stories, using items such as: books, puppets, telling a story, flannel story, book on CD’s (should support lesson plans and/or theme)
Let’s Identify Your Strengths…..

- Are you comfortable singing in front of children and peers?
- Do you play a musical instrument?
- Are you good at surfing the internet for new ideas?
- Can you tell a story?
- Are you comfortable in engaging parents and community members to participate during group time?
- Organized?
- If you are not sure of your strengths ask your coworkers…you might be surprised how others see you.
- Love to dance?
AVOID....

- Circle Time *going too long*. A young child’s attention span is about 5 minutes and will expand throughout the year.

- Talking to coworkers over the children.

- Having too many other activities going on in the classroom (distractions).

- Having too many children leave group to brush teeth, or help set the table, especially during story time as this sends a message that the story is not important.

- Threats...If you don’t be quiet I am not going to finish reading the book! We know this is not an appropriate classroom management strategy.

- Punishment ...This creates a negative feeling in children as they begin to associate “getting in trouble” with reading and books.

- Rewards...”If you will be quiet I can finish the story then we can all go and play”. This sets up the idea that listening to a story is something that children are forced to do before they can go and something really fun.

- Negative language – No; don’t; stop; I’m going to call your Mom!

- Repetitious activities (such as the same songs and books each time). Will create behavior issues.
Always...

- Use Props or attention getters such as: pompoms, magic wand, puppets and capes. Any other suggestions? Most items can be purchased at the dollar store. A good teacher is always adding to his or her bag of tricks.

- Create a flow of how Circle Time should go: start with attention getters, calm everyone down by reviewing calendar, roll call, weather and most important...what’s for lunch?! Next, onto music and movement to work out the wiggles, close with a story and dismiss to outdoors, lunch, or free flow activities.

- Use expanded vocabulary; such as transportation, vehicle, bus terminal.

- Don’t be afraid to dance or sing in front of peers and children. Remember you lead by example. Children will look to you for clues.

- When reading books and singing songs, try using different tones of voice to spark the children’s imagination.

- Use positive language and reinforcement.

- **Have fun and be in the moment**: Children will sense if you are checked in or out.
**Transition Songs**

- **Clean-up:**
  
  Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho
  (Tune from movie “Snow White”)
  Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho
  It’s clean-up time you know.
  Put the toys away for another day,
  Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho

- **Coming to Circle Time:**
  
  Bells are ringing (Tune “Are You Sleeping”)
  Bells are ringing (walk around room ringing bell as you sing.)
  Bells are ringing.
  Hear the chime.
  Hear the chime.
  Telling all the children.
  Telling all the children.
  Circle time, circle time
Together let’s make a recommittance to helping children grow a sense of wonder, imagination and become lifelong learners.

Thank you for this opportunity

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