



Circle Time

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| Description | A structured way of encouraging discussion in groups. Children discuss an issue or problem whilst sitting round in a circle, often at floor level. There is often a toy or item that is passed round. If you are the person holding the toy you are allowed to speak. The toy is then passed to another person in turn allowing them the opportunity to speak if they wish. |
| Age Range | 3-18 |
| Time | 30-45 minutes depending on the size and age of the group |
| Cost | Just time if met in current provision |
| Benefits | Passing a toy around means that all those that want to can have a say It prevents one person domination the discussion Holding a toy means that children have something to focus on while they are speaking |
| Drawbacks | Some children may feel intimidated at first about speaking to the group and may need time to get used to the idea Children may choose not to reveal their actual thoughts You may need a facilitator to ensure one person does not speak for lengthy periods |
| Other | This method is often used in primary schools, particularly with infant aged children to encourage them to gain confidence to speak in groups. |
| Example | At primary school, children discussed issues around different feelings. This included how they would feel if they were starting somewhere new because a few new children were starting the class. |