

ADVICE SHEET

Circle Time Activities

These are from various circle time resources. Groups should be no bigger than eight children (3+ years) – smaller groups for younger children. Ideal for Key Person groups!

Circle Times should be short and focus on PSED. Think about the age and stage of the children taking part in the activities.

Rounds

Pass the sound 1: Pass an instrument around the circle, such as jingle bells or tambourine. Each child has to pass carefully to the next child, not making a sound!

Pass the sound 2: Pass a sound around the circle such as ‘hsssss’ or ‘ssshh’ or ‘rrrrrr’

My friend is.....: Children take it in turns to introduce the child to the right of them

I am.....this is.....: Again an introducing round

My friends like me because.....: An affirmation round

I like your.....: The child likes something about the child sat to their right. EG: I like your shoes/or hair/or eyes etc. Another affirmation round.

I am the same as you because.....: For example “ I have brown hair too” or blue eyes/trousers/ black shoes etc

Pass a smile: Pass a smile to the child next to you. You can send round different smiles e.g.: wide smile, toothy smile, silly smile etc!

Magic Squeeze: All children hold hands and a gentle squeeze is passed around the circle.

Pass the rhythm: Leader claps a simple rhythm and the next child follows it

Change places: Change places if youhave a brother/ sister/ dog/ cat/ brown shoes etc

Activities

The most special person: Make a box with a lid that has a mirror stuck in the bottom. Pass a box around the circle. Tell each child to lift the lid and see a very special person, they shouldn’t say who they see. When the box has been right round ask “Who is the most special person?” – they should all shout “ME!”



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Guess Who: Photo's of children in the group are shuffled and each child has one picture. They have to say 2 things they like about the child in the photo. The other children can guess who it is (Don't forget to include a photo of you!)

Hands, Knees, Name! Children all clap hands, clap knees and then call out the name of the next child around the circle.

Join My Train: Chosen person chugs up to the next. Says "Hi, I'm.....join my train. Together they chug to the next person. First one says "Hi I'm" Second child says "Hi I'm" then both together "Join our train". Continue until whole group are a train!

Firecracker: All hold hands. Leader starts a 'ssssssss' sound, then next child joins in, then next etc until the last child is reached when all shout 'BANG!'

Acknowledgements:

Jenny Mosely Stepping Stones Circle Games

Little Book of Circle Time Featherstone Books

Circle Time for the Very Young – Margaret Collins