Creating and Implementing an Interactive, Inclusive Circle Time

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Introductions

- A little bit about you...
  - Who are you?
  - Where are you from?
  - What job do you do?
  - About your population
A little about me...

- Gini Bramlett

  - Undergraduate and Masters Degrees from UGA

  - Teaching Experience
    - Clarke Middle School, Athens, GA
    - Horn Lake Intermediate, Horn Lake, MS
    - Regents School of Oxford, Oxford, MS
    - Blue Ridge Elementary, Blue Ridge, GA
Objectives

- As a result of this activity, the participant will gather ideas on ways to engage students through an interactive circle time.

- As a result of this activity, the participant will be able to integrate technology into the classroom daily morning routine.

- As a result of this activity, the participant will be able to create an interactive circle time that all students can access and interact.
Purpose & Goals of our daily Circle Time

- Sets the tone for the day
- Learn to listen & take turns
- Work on following directions
- Celebrate each other & self
- Gain self-confidence
- Practice social skills (i.e. greetings)
- Create a sense of belonging
- Repetition = learning
- Social, emotional, and intellectual learning
What are your initial thoughts?
“Reducing the amount of information will likely increase on-task behavior and understanding during morning meeting. Consider displaying the information only as needed during the activity. Placing materials on foam board or a flip chart may be helpful, as they can easily be put away when not in use.” – Kara Hume [source]
Good Morning!
Welcome to our Circle Time (Everyday Format)

- Greetings
- Day of the Week
- Month of the Year
- Calendar
- Season
- Weather
- Who is in class today? (Attendance)
- Weekly Classroom concepts (letters, numbers & counting, songs, etc.)
The month is

February

March

April

May

October

November

December

January
The Season is

summer  fall  winter  spring
Weather
Attendance

Who is at school?

home
Other Attendance Ideas
Other Concepts: Counting
Websites We Use

- **Starfall** *(Letter of the week, colors, counting, interactive songs)*

- **You Tube**
  - **Phonics Song** *(on YouTube “A is for Apple”)*
  - **Phonics song with sign language** *(also YouTube)*
  - Station: KidsTV123

- **What websites do you use?**
Non Verbal Students/Technology

- **Big Macs**
  - Record greetings
  - Repetitive story lines

- **Proloquo2Go** (iPad app)

- **GoTalk**
  - 4+
  - Button
Low tech AT are devices or equipment that don't require much training, may be less expensive and do not have complex or mechanical features. For example: handheld magnifiers, large print text, using paper and pen to communicate, canes and walkers, reachers/grabbers, specialized pen or pencil grips and much more.
More low tech ideas

Great Website: http://tnt.asu.edu/tnt-helpdesk
Behavior Strategies/Visuals

- Quiet Voice
- Hands in Lap
- Sit in Chair
Sitting at Circle

Hands in Your Lap

Sit Tall

Feet on the Floor

{source}

VISUAL SUPPORT

- My body is still.
- My ears are listening.
- My eyes are looking.
- My hands are still.
Have a spot for each student...
Transition Ideas

- Songs/Music
- “Check your schedule”
- Flick the lights
- Musical Instrument (train whistle, chimes)

How do you transition in your classrooms?
How do I create my own?

- Things you need:
  - Smartboard or Activeboard
  - Boardmaker, symbol stix, or pictures

- Tips:
  - When copying from Boardmaker to Smartboard, copy and paste one item at a time
  - Lock down items that you don’t want students to be able to move
  - Make sure they are low enough on the page for little children to reach

- Don’t Recreate the wheel
  - [http://exchange.smarttech.com/#tab=0](http://exchange.smarttech.com/#tab=0)
  - [https://www.boardmakerachieve.com/Activities/Search](https://www.boardmakerachieve.com/Activities/Search)
* If you would like me to send you my SmartBoard file of my daily circle time, please email me at the address above, and I will send it to you! You are free to use it just like it is or change it however you see fit! If you come up with a great idea, I’d love for you to send it my way.
Resources

- **The Morning Meeting Book**
  - by Roxann Kriete & Carol Davis

- **Making the Most of Morning Meeting**
  - by Kara Hume

- **Making Morning Circle Meaningful**
  - By: Bruce, Susan; Fasy, Cara; Gulick, Jessica. TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus, v2 n4 Article 1 Mar 2006.

- **Evaluating Circle Time as a support to social skills development – reflections on a journey in school-based research**

- **Circle Time: An Exploratory Study of Activities and Challenging Behavior in Head Start Classrooms.**
Blogs & Websites

- http://workofheart.bravehost.com/circletime.htm
- http://www.teachpreschool.org/2013/03/ten-tips-for-circletime/
- http://special-ism.com/7-strategies-for-more-successful-circle-times/
- http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/toc.html
- http://tnt.asu.edu
More websites and blogs

- [http://autismtank.blogspot.com](http://autismtank.blogspot.com)
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