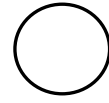


Circles as an Instructional Tool



Promoting Growth and Development

SELF AWARENESS

Insights into:

- Your own mind and arrive at your OWN conclusions
- The connection between your own thoughts/feelings/ behavior

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Awareness that all people have the power to affect others
- Repertoire of “feelings” words increases

PERSONAL MASTERY

- Willingness to take responsibility for one’s own actions

COMMUNICATION

- Verbal and non-verbal messages interpreted
- Active and reflective listening practiced

Elements of a Circle

Talking Piece

- # Something of meaning
- # Balances the discussion
- # Assures all views and voices heard
- # Respectful pace
- # Helps with collective sense of trust and equality
- # Can pass – no obligation to speak

Circle Space

- # Everyone seated in a circle, preferably without a table or other furnishings
- # Clear beginning and closing
- # Often Includes a center piece for focus or reminder of shared values

Circle Keepers

- # Facilitate Circle dialogue
- # Protect the integrity of the Circle process
- # Hold a space that is clear, open, respectful and free
- # Serve the Circle

Circle Guidelines

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| # Respect the talking piece | # Listen with respect |
| # Speak from the heart | # Remain in the Circle |
| # Speak with respect | # Honor confidentiality |