

# CIRCLE TIME: ENGAGING LITTLE LEARNERS

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# INTRODUCTION

- ⦿ Greeting song and activity/name tags
- ⦿ What are some group time challenges?

# ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

- ◉ Some kids aren't ready - allow for other choices
- ◉ Use "fidgets", chair, picture cards, seating arrangement to help kiddos be a part of group
- ◉ Use non-verbal whenever possible
- ◉ Recognize desired behavior
- ◉ Change schedule or room arrangement (if possible)
- ◉ Group time should be fairly active and the length of time appropriate for the age group/time of year
- ◉ Young kiddos really need a defined "space".

# GAMES

- Ponchinella -

"Oh, Ponchinella, your such a funny fellow, let's see what \_\_\_\_\_ can do!"

- Bug in a Rug

"Bug in a rug, bug in a rug, who's that bug in a rug!"

- Doggie, Doggie

"Doggie, doggie, where's your bone, somebody stole it from your home. Guess who, it might be you, it might be a monkey from the zoo. Wake up little bow-wow, woof-woof-woo!"

- Donut Song

"Down around the corner at the bakery shop, sat (number of kids +1) little donuts with sprinkles on the top. Along came \_\_\_\_\_ with a nickel to pay. He chose a \_\_\_\_\_ donut and strolled away"

# MOVEMENT SONGS

- ◉ Head and Shoulders, Toe Knee Chest Nut
- ◉ Bear Hunt
- ◉ Shake your Sillies Out
- ◉ Alphabet Freeze Dance
- ◉ These Are My Hands

“These are my hands, my hands are friends. They play rubby, rubby, rubby and over, over, over. Over-back, over-back, over-back. Sometimes my hands get in fights and they run away. I sing them a song. I sing, ‘come on hands, come together, come on hands come together, come on hands come together -“NO!”. Oh no, let’s try it again.’”

# NURSERY RHYMES

- ◉ Jack Be Nimble - use a candlestick (or a block) and let each kid “jump” over it as you sing the song with their name.
- ◉ Humpty Dumpty - let them drop a REAL egg off a wall (or a structure you have built with blocks) as you sing.
- ◉ GLAD strategies - write out nursery rhymes and have kids help add pictures, drawing, words.

# SONGS/STORIES USING FELT BOARDS

- ◉ Snowman
- ◉ Gingerbread
- ◉ Apples
- ◉ The internet is your friend!

# BOOKS

- ◉ Extend with puppets, songs, use GLAD strategies, use Big Books, have kids repeat a phrase
- ◉ Allow kids to “vote” for the story they want to read.
- ◉ Small group readings during learning centers are great!



# OTHER IDEAS

- ◉ Life Cycle charts - pumpkin, butterfly
- ◉ Shape hunt, sound hunt, sorting activities - the kids get up and search for items and bring them back to group.
- ◉ White boards - one for everyone - practice letters, their name, shapes, etc.
- ◉ Make playdough
- ◉ Science Experiments

# SHARING TIME (SHOW N TELL)

- Try a “Person of the Day” so each kid shares on a different day
- Break them into smaller share groups
- Use a “talking stick” for turn taking

# USE GROUP TIME TO COLLECT DATA!

- Use transitions from group as an opportunity to collect data.

Name writing, counting, making patterns, what's missing, hopping, sorting, etc.

# CAN'T GO OUTSIDE!

- ◉ Go outside unless you **really** cannot.
- ◉ Gorilla Yoga - put on soft music and give each kiddo a "space".
- ◉ Obstacle course in the classroom.
- ◉ Follow the Leader
- ◉ Ask the kids for their favorite songs.
- ◉ Dance with scarves
- ◉ Toss bean bags

# DISMISSAL SONGS/ACTIVITIES

- ◉ Choo- Choo
- ◉ Higgity Piggety - "Higgity Piggity Bumblebee, will you say your name for me?"
- ◉ Willaby Wallaby
- ◉ Dismiss using colors, letter their name starts with, etc.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- ◉ Group time should be FUN! If it is not working - STOP. End group or do something different.

# RESOURCES

- ◉ Head Start Inclusion

<http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/>

- ◉ Use other teachers/educators
- ◉ Teachers Pay Teachers

# THANK YOU!

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