

The Inclusion Circle

Respectful Relationships

To promote fairness, empathy, and inclusive behaviour by engaging students in a playful activity that celebrates shared interests and explores ways to make everyone feel valued and welcomed.



Learning Intentions

Students learn the importance of inviting others to join in with them and how to be inclusive.



This helps students practise inclusive behaviours and understand the importance of welcoming others into shared experiences.

For students to notice when someone is left out.

This builds awareness and empathy by encouraging students to pay attention to their peers' feelings and participation.

For students to be able to suggest kind ways to include everyone.

This empowers students to take positive action and be leaders in creating a fair, kind, and inclusive classroom.



Success Criteria

Inclusion and Fairness:

Students are able to include others in their play and make sure no one is left out.

Empathy and Awareness:

Students notice how others might feel when excluded and respond in kind and helpful ways.

Positive Peer Relationships:

Students demonstrate the ability to build connections and show respect by including different classmates.



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Objective:

To promote fairness, empathy, and inclusive behaviour by engaging students in a playful activity that celebrates shared interests and explores ways to make everyone feel valued and welcomed.

Players:

Whole class (best suited for groups of 8 or more)

Materials:

None

Setup:

Have students stand in a large circle with enough room to step forward or backward comfortably.

Activity:

1. Emotion Prompts and Movement:

One student is selected to stand in the middle of the circle. They call out a prompt that reflects something they like, such as:

"Join my circle if you like ice cream," or

"Join my circle if you enjoy dancing."

2. Step In to Connect:

Students who agree with the statement step into the circle to join the student in the middle. After a few seconds, they step back to the outer circle.

3. Reflect and Include:

After several rounds, the teacher pauses the game and asks:

- "What if someone never stepped into the circle?"
- "How do you think that person might feel?"
- "What could we say or do to make sure they feel included?"

Guide the class in brainstorming kind, respectful, and inclusive actions.

4. Repeat:

Play additional rounds, encouraging students to come up with their own prompts. Celebrate diversity by highlighting a wide range of interests.



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Reflection Prompt:

- How did it feel when others joined your circle?
- What can we do if someone is always standing on the outside?
- Why is it important to make sure everyone feels included?

Winning the Game:

There are no winners or losers in this activity. The goal is to help students recognise shared interests, build empathy, and practise inclusive behaviours that make everyone feel welcome.

Additional Notes:

The Inclusion Circle is ideal for building community in the early years. It encourages movement, laughter, social awareness, and rich class discussion about belonging and fairness. It can also be adapted with feelings, hobbies, or even classroom routines.

