

Circle Times

Circle times should be carefully planned for. If children are being moved away from their play and learning then we should ensure circle times are purposeful and teach children a new skill.

- Know the developmental levels of the children.
- Small group circle times work the best.
- What skill do you need to teach? This will be determined from children's assessment.
- Where will the circle time take place?
- How long with the circle time last?
- How are you going to get the children to circle time?
- How will the adult's help?
- What resources do you need?
- Circle time should have a structure.

Circle Time Activity Plan	
Date:	
EYFS Developmental Levels:	
Learning Objective	
Resources	
Transition	
Introductory Phase	
Middle Phase	
Closing Phase	
Evaluation	

Adults should consider the following:

- Circle times to take place where there is fewer visual distractions and auditory distractions (background noise).
- Use an object of reference/visuals or Now/Next board to support the transition to the circle time.
- The length of the circle time will depend on the needs of the children. However it should no longer than 20 minutes.
- Some children may benefit from using a wobble cushion or fiddle objects.
- Adults should use simple clear language and visuals, Makaton, gestures/pointing, mime throughout circle time (to suit developmental levels) and to reinforce the structure of the circle time.
- Praise children for good listening. Make it clear to the child/ren what the praise is for "John, well done, good listening, you are looking at me".
- Repeat activities or songs if necessary.
- Make the activities fun and enjoy yourself!



Links to EYFS: CLL, PD, PSED, LIT, MATHS, KU, EAD

SEND Code of Practice: C&L, C&I, SEMH.

At home we can encourage opportunities to develop listening, attention and focus skills.

- Follow your child's interest and join in with their play. Use simple clear language with gestures and/or Makaton. Increase their attention by introducing new play/objects.
- Sing nursery rhymes and number songs, supported with visuals or objects of references.
- Encourage opportunities to share books. The local library is a good source of books and they also have a 'story time'.
- Importantly have fun with your child. If you are enjoying the experience they will be too.