



Untapping the Hidden Potential of Circle Time

Tips for Treasure Hunting

- Have a great attitude – it really makes a difference!
- Discover the power of the “Silly 2 Minute Warning”!
- Choices!
- Special Song (like “Rug Time”)
- Special Bag/boxes/containers (“Magic Bag”)

Hidden Treasures in Circle Time

Increased Learning/Academic Gains

Classroom Management

Social Emotional Development

Self-Regulation Development

Children learn best

- in connection
- with repetition
- when it’s fun
- by moving

Mini Circle Time

Extra centers

Letter/color/shape

Bible Story Book (story of the week or an ongoing book)

Connections

I Love You Rituals

Props and Magic Box/Bag

- Silly Glasses/Disguise
- Phone
- “Microphone”
- Ball
- Dice
- Activity Cube
- Favorite Anything Chooser Bag, Dice or Spinner
- Puppet
- Science Object
- Letter, number, color, shape
- _____
- _____

Simple Ways You Can Increase the Value of your Circle Time (details of example activity to be presented in session)

Reinforce an Educational Concept with a Group Game

- Example – “Pop Up Counting” (increase academic learning and classroom connection)

Teach a Manner

- Example – “Right, Silly Wrong, Right” w 2 Puppets

Increase Self-Regulation Skills

- Example – “Ice Cream Bath” (also helps develop imagination)

Develop Imagination

- Example – “Paper Bag Pull”

Introduce and Streamline a Center

- Example – Use a center activity like “Brown Bear Clank Can” (<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/PolarBearPolarBearClankCan.html>) as a game during circle time.

Take “Literature on the Move”

- Example - Take an active book like The Snowy Day and act out all the motor movements.

Encourage Early Writing

- Example - Class Journaling (http://www.homeschoolcreations.com/files/Draw_and_Journal_Pages.pdf)

Create a More Connected Classroom

- Example – “I Love You Ritual” Activity Chooser

Combine Several of the Above

- Example – “Puppet vs. Puppet” Math (increase academic learning, classroom connection and intro a center)