

Circle time: Meeting Children's needs?



TRADITIONAL CIRCLE TIME-

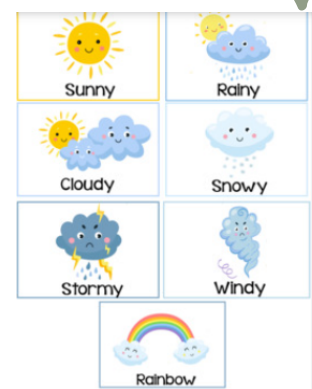
A group activity where children gather in a circle for interactive learning and sharing experiences.

GROUP TIME

It is to create an intimate learning environment to broaden and deepen children's knowledge and understanding of concepts across developmental domains.

Typical Traditional circle time includes-

- Greeting
- Calendar and Weather
- Show-and-Tell
- Storytime
- Songs and Rhymes



What is wrong with calendar times?

The ability to judge the relative time from a past event or until a future event in terms of the calendar year is not in place until sometime between 7 and 10 years of age.

Time to move beyond traditional circle time-

- Lack of Individualised Attention
- Attention span requirement
- Passive Participation
- Limited Social Interaction
- Inflexibility and Lack of Choice
- Cultural and Individual Differences



KEY POINTS

- Time consideration
- Balance active and passive activities
- Predictable yet flexible
- Use visual aids
- Respond to children's interests



Will children feel something missing if circle times are completely removed?

People's view on eliminating circle time-

"They could do a morning meeting with a gathering activity and feelings check in. But the calendar/weather/letter of the day/etc benefits nobody."

"15 min tops and should be fun. Ditch the meaningless inappropriate things (letter, shape, calendar songs)."

"what!!! Who needs structure more than ever is this generation!"

"I would strongly advise against eliminating circle time. The skills children learn during circle time extend beyond childhood."

"I've been over sit and listen/cross cross applesauce/ eyes on me circle times For a decade. But I love a post breakfast gathering/ morning meeting. It's a fabulous oppty for a feelings check-in, SEL activity, or an interactive song or story and to discuss play options for the day. Staff can facilitate, children lead."

"Not all should be lost from the traditional large group model, but it must have meaning, be purposeful, and developmentally appropriate"

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