



# Visual Support Guide: Circle Time

## What?

These visuals show pictures of activities that take place during large group activities such as circle time. The visuals also show common behavioral expectations for circle time.

## Why?

- Using visuals of activities and expectations provides predictability by helping children better understand what activities will take place during circle time and what is expected of them.
- Pictures of activities and expectations help children who struggle to participate in large group activities. They also provide added visual information for children who have difficulty attending to and processing verbal information.
- You can adapt the visuals depending on the level and type of support a child needs.
  - Create a visual schedule that shows the sequence of activities that will happen during circle time. The circle time schedule can be used for the whole group or for an individual child who needs an extra reminder.
  - Provide visual reminders of rules and behaviors expected in large group activities for the whole group or an individual child who needs an extra reminder.

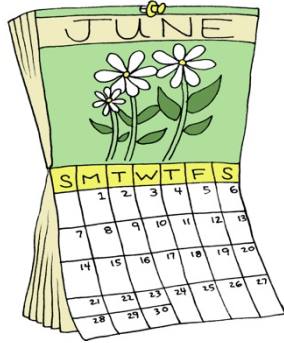
## How?

- Make a circle time visual schedule.
  - Select pictures of activities you've planned for circle time.
  - Put each picture on a large piece of paper or attach to a Velcro board in the order the activities will take place.
  - Translate the activities into the languages spoken by the children in your group or make separate versions for each language.
- Use a circle time visual schedule.
  - Show the visual schedule to children at the start of circle time. Explain the order in which activities will take place.
  - When an activity is finished, cover the picture or remove it from the board so children clearly see what the next activity will be. To increase participation, invite a child to remove a card as each activity is completed.
  - Provide extra support by giving a child a card of an activity to hold during the activity.
- Make circle time expectation visual supports.
  - Select pictures of the behaviors you expect from children during circle time.

- Make individual cards or put pictures together on a large piece of paper to make a poster. If using the expectation visuals for an individual child, laminate the cards, punch holes in the corner, and put on a metal ring. You can also put the visuals in your pocket to show a child, or a child can hold the visuals.
- Translate the expectations into all the languages spoken by the children in your group or making separate pictures for each language.
- Use circle time expectation visual supports.
  - Make a plan that outlines expectations and when to introduce them. Start with two to three expectations to avoid overwhelming children.
  - Show the pictures at the start of circle time and remind children of what they are expected to do. Point to each symbol as you say the word to help children understand.
  - Refer to the visuals of behaviors often throughout the activity. Provide intentional positive feedback to children who are following the expected behaviors.
  - Provide extra support by reminding a child who has difficulty with social interactions ahead of time of an expected behavior.

# Circle Time

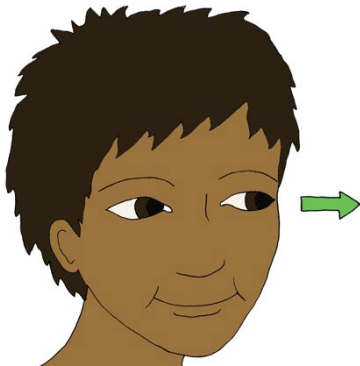
**Calendar**



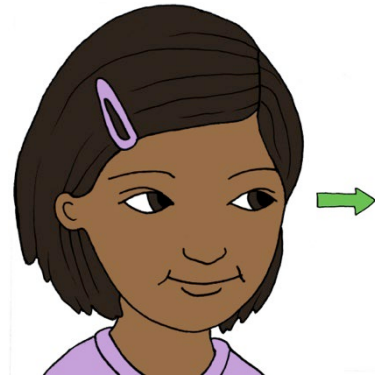
**Circle Time**



**Eyes on the Teacher**



**Eyes on the Teacher**



**Field Trip**



**Listening Ears**



# Circle Time

**Sitting Quietly**



**Raising a Quiet Hand**



**Singing songs**



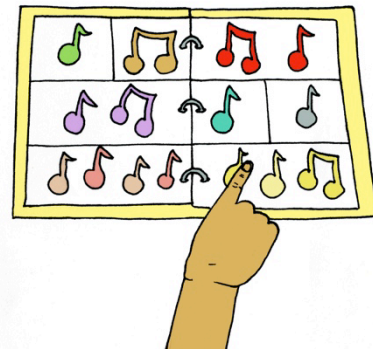
**Singing Songs**



**Calm Body**

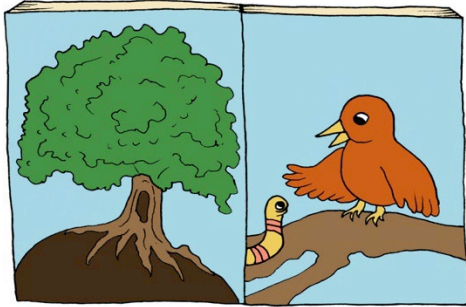


**Song Chooser**



# Circle Time

**Book**



**Weather**

