

Settling Into Circle Time



Finger Plays: See attached handouts of finger play examples.



Children Get Carpet Mats: Consider putting children's names and/or pictures on the carpet mats.



Reinforce! Reinforce children who come to circle with smiles, high-5s, stickers, lots of praise, and other creative reinforcers.



Magic Wand: Teacher can tap children with a magic wand as they come to circle, as a reinforcer, and to turn them into "statues" or to turn their "voice off."



Magic Rocks: Children get down on the floor like rocks. The teacher says, "Magic rocks, magic rocks... turn into... (name an animal)". The children then act out this animal, until the teacher says "Magic rocks..." again. This allows children to move, then be still, then move, etc. Consider ending the game with, "Magic rocks.... Site on your bottoms" then "Magic rocks... eyes on me!"



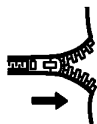
Three Deep Breaths: Try a "Hoberman's sphere" (also called a "breathing ball") as a visual cue. Or have children blow pinwheels, straws with Easter grass taped on the edge, or cotton balls across a flat surface.



Tongue & Mouth Twisters: Teacher says a tongue twister and children try to imitate. Or the teacher makes sounds the children imitate (ex. clucking, ta ta ta, pa pa pa, ka ka ka, kissing sound). Or the teacher moves his/ her tongue and mouth and children imitate (ex. try to touch nose with tongue, move tongue side to side, make fish face).



Animal Actions & Movements: Children imitate an animal or other movement (ex. skating) then end by sitting down.



"We're gonna zip-zip-zip our lips..." Chant: "We're gonna zip-zip-zip our lips... we're gonna open up our ears... we're gonna Shh! Shh! Shh! 'cause circle time is here!"