

Jenny Mosley's
Top Tips for

TOP Circle Time Games



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Introduction

Weekly Circle Times are fun and transformational! The Circle Time model is a highly effective listening system and listening is something that we have all forgotten how to do in these busy, 'technology days'. Circle Time is a place where children's opinions matter; a place where difficult subjects can be discussed in safety. Circle Time is where British Values can be practised and experienced by all.

Games are one of the most powerful ways of building teams and this little book focuses just on the games that children love and that will help them build strong relationships. There are games to get everyone thinking, to promote teamwork, to encourage moral and social awareness, to improve listening and communication skills; games to spark children's imagination and to promote teamwork, as well as just games that are fun and make you giggle!

If you want to develop Circle Time further we offer a fantastic 'Circle Time Starter Kit' and a 'PSHE Through Circle Time Pack'. Both can be found in our web-site shop www.circle-time.co.uk

Keeper of the Keys

You will need: A bunch of keys and a blindfold.

Good for: helping the class to develop concentration and listening skills.

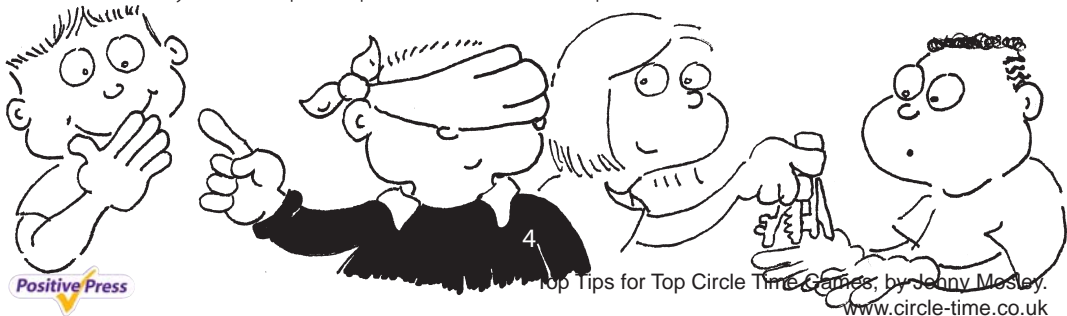
How to play

Sitting in a circle, one child is chosen to be the keeper of the keys. A chair is placed in the centre of the circle for the keeper to sit on, wearing a blindfold. The keys are placed underneath the chair.

One at a time, children volunteer to be seekers and try and capture the keys, whilst the rest of the class remain very quiet.

If the keeper hears any sound, he or she shouts 'stop' and points in the direction of the sound. The 'seeker' has to freeze. The teacher traces an imaginary line from the keeper's outstretched arm, forward. If the line leads to the seeker, he or she returns to their seat and a new seeker is chosen. If not, the current seeker continues to try and capture the keys. When a seeker successfully captures the keys and returns to their seat, undetected, they become the new keeper. You can limit the number of 'stops' the keeper is allowed.

Top Tip - Why don't you make this into a special story – maybe a dragon guarding its gold and the villagers are trying to get the gold back. Perhaps you could make some obstacles with overturned chairs that become slippery mountains or the waste paper bin that becomes a huge boulder that they have to pick up and walk three steps with!



Fruit Salad

You will need: Nothing

Good for: This game is good as a warm up, and also a great way of mixing children up, and having them interact with children in the class that they would possibly not otherwise talk to, or sit next to.

How to play

The children sit in a circle on chairs, the teacher chooses a child to be the 'leader' and removes their chair from the circle. The leader goes around the circle, alternately naming the remaining children 'orange', 'apple' and 'pear'.

The leader then calls out the name of one of the fruits, for example **"apple"**, and all the children in that category change seats.

If the leader calls out **"Fruit Salad"**, all the children change seats. When this happens, the leader tries to sit on one of the chairs and the player left without a chair becomes the new leader.

You can increase the number of fruits you choose depending on the age and competency of the children. Alternatively, you can choose different categories, such as, 'Everyone who likes The X Factor' or 'Everyone who likes burgers' and the game is the same as above.

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This little booklet contains some of the best circle time games ever!! I have been running circle times now since the early 70's and I can promise you all that there are games in here which all children will love. Games are only one feature of circle time. You can start and end a circle time with a game. Or you can use one of these games as a special treat for when your class achieves a behaviour target. Do look further into circle time, it has a lot to offer children. It helps support children's mental health, it embeds British Values and it creates a team spirit which makes lunchtimes happier too.

Good luck, Jenny Mosley

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