



# Why is everyone in a circle?

## QUICK TIPS

### Important circle principles

1. Must serve a learning purpose.
2. Engagement students maximised in listening, speaking or doing.
3. Less is more - short frequent circles.
4. Scheduled and flexible.
5. Positioning is important - circles only work because of the absence of powerful positions.

**C**ircles are away of making sure that all children are participating for more of the time in as much learning as possible.

**Why do we use them?** Restorative circles build a strong culture where children will value relationships and take responsibility for their actions/learning. In a circle every child answers a question or participates. No one can hide or not participate. Circles improve the chances of students understanding and retaining the learning.

At school we sit in a circle free from obstruction, at home we could sit around the dinner table and engage while eating or sit on the couch with everyone on the same level and looking at each other. It is important that everyone feels equal, and no one is positioned in a more powerful position which allows people to feel more comfortable in sharing.

*Circles create participation.*

## What does it look like at home and school?

Circle Type - Aim	Home	School
<b>Check In</b> – communicate how they are feeling.	“Two words to describe your feelings.”	“Two words to describe how we feel about our next lesson, Maths”
<b>Check Out</b> - Reflect on ethic, contribution, progress, attitude.	“Two things that you participated in today”	“One thing to keep practising from today’s lesson”.
<b>Learning</b> - introduce new content, check for understanding.	“Two reasons why it’s important to feed the pets”	“Name an animal that is a mammal”.
<b>Preparation</b> - Prepare for a new challenge.	“Two things to pack for family vacation”.	“Two essential areas of content needed for a 60% score”.
<b>Response</b> - Restore wrongdoing or performance issues	“Two words about how you were affected when the job wasn’t done”.	“Two ways to repair a relationship after a disagreement”