

Spice Up Your Circle Time

Presenters: Pam Gorin and Nancy Schmitz

NAEYC Conference
Washington, DC

December 2005

canweteach@yahoo.com

SPICE UP YOUR CIRCLE TIME

INTRODUCTION

Why do circle - What are we teaching?

WE ARE:

- ☺ **Introducing and reinforcing concepts, using visual, auditory, and motor cues.**
- ☺ **Providing a structured and cohesive large group activity with a beginning & an ending.**
- ☺ **Sometimes taking care of organizational business: schedules, special events, and rules.**
- ☺ **Fostering development of listening and visual discrimination skills, as well as building receptive & expressive language.**
- ☺ **Developing social competency by encouraging the use of social skills and social language – turn taking.**
- ☺ **Supporting awareness of spatial organization and sensory integration.**
- ☺ **Developing coordination and motor skills.**
- ☺ **Practicing memory and retrieval.**
- ☺ **Reinforcing identity and appreciation of cultural diversity.**

SAMPLE CIRCLE

WE DON'T TEACH CIRCLE BY:

- 1. Lecturing - Less talking more doing!**
- 2. Showing project samples - PROCESS ART!**
- 3. Using books as your only visual cue - Large groups needs large books!**
- 4. Sitting still! So let's move!**

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL TEACHING STYLE?

- ☺Personality**
- ☺Passions**
- ☺Seeing**
- ☺Stretching**
- ☺Surprise....**

USE VISUAL CUES & MOVEMENT:

- 1. Make it comfortable for your teaching style and keep it simple.**
- 2. Make sure it can be seen - visual tracking.**
- 3. Spark interest with the unexpected.**
- 4. Have something for each child to hold and use.**
- 5. Build a movement and song repertoire that progress.**
- 6. Use common play items along with unique items.**
- 7. Give puppets homes, consistent voices, and personalities.**
- 8. Intersperse movement (with rhythm props) during circle.**
- 9. Change the pattern by being silly, or forgetful.**
- 10. Know when it is enough and pay attention to your audience!**

HOW TO SPICE UP YOUR CIRCLE:

- ☺ Use developmentally appropriate activities that teach to children's strengths such as activities generated by use of the Project Approach.**
- ☺ Accommodate individual as well as group learning styles and special needs.**
- ☺ Orchestrate and intentionally change pace and intensity.**
- ☺ Maintain flexibility: embracing the teachable moment, or change when your plan isn't working.**
- ☺ Share the spotlight by encouraging participation by all who want to.**
- ☺ Blend the familiar with the new & keep the skills evolving.**
- ☺ Support emergent literacy and numeric awareness.**
- ☺ Reinforce concepts at the beginning when children are fresh & close on a positive note - keep them wanting more.**
- ☺ Blend songs, surprise, humor, movement, and visual cues.**

SPICE UP CIRCLE-TIME (Lunch Project) WITH MISS NANCY

- **Clean-up Transition:**

1. Reminder: three more minutes until Brownie comes out.
2. Look who is here - it is Brownie the clean-up dog puppet.
3. Time to put the toys away (Mary Had A Little Lamb).
4. Who can pick a toy up, a block up (Did You Ever See a Lassie)?
5. Come on everybody its circle-time (Yes Indeed My Darling).

- **Opening Songs:**

1. Its time to say hello to all my friends (Round the Mountain).
2. Did you clean-up the room yes, yes, did you put away the toys, yes, yes, did you put away the clay.
3. Count with me 1, 2, 3, out comes Jumping Johnnie Puppet – what is he holding (he introduces the holiday/topic).

- **Lunch Project (Emergent Curriculum Approach) - Related Songs and Finger-plays:**

1. What are you eating, what are you eating for lunch today (Hap Palmer's What are You Wearing).
2. Old Macdonald had a lunch box. Pull them out of a bag.
3. This is the way we take make our lunch (Round the Mulberry Bush).
4. Play lunch food on a tray – sort into food groups, play 'what is missing'.
5. Hand-out pictures of foods with Velcro and let the children come up and make a balanced lunch on the flannel board.

- **Introduce Puppet and Name Song:**

1. Where oh Where is my friend Teddy (Paw Paw Patch).
2. If you're happy to see Teddy blow a kiss.
3. Hello, Hola, Aloha, Shalom, Jambo, Sign Language, how are you? Your name is? And we like you. Pass around a musical instrument or talking stick.
4. Time to put the mats away so we can have movement time (Mary Had a Lamb).

SPICE UP CIRCLE-TIME WITH MISS NANCY

- **Movement:**

1. Tune of “Jack in the Box” with lunch: what’s inside your lunch box today, soon we all shall see, turn the crank and out it pops it’s a glass of orange juice. Glug, glug, glug, you drink it down, the vitamin C goes round and round, stronger, stronger your muscles grow, will it stop no one knows. Back inside your box, inside your box! What’s inside your lunch box today, soon we all shall see, turn the crank and out it pops, it’s a shiny apple, take a crisp and crunchy bite, chew it up with all your might, now you can jump with energy, eating healthy is good you see, back inside your box, inside your box! What’s inside your lunchbox today, soon we all shall see, turn the crank and out it pops – it’s a yummy lunch for me!
2. Make the magic stick into something you eat for lunch.
3. Hokey Pokey – you put your carrots in..., put your salad in.
4. Pick up your feet and march in the street, Knock your knees and let out the bees –buzz, Wiggle your middle and play your fiddle, Nod your head and get out the lead, Wiggle your thumbs and play your drums, Clap your hands and join our band!
5. Breathe in breathe out; Now let’s give a little shout, that’s what life is all about.
6. Stir Miss Nancy’s friends, stir and stir, stir over to the table to eat a healthy snack.

Let us come and work with your staff:

Contact

Pam Gorin & Nancy Schmitz at

canweteach@yahoo.com

